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THE
MOTHER'S
FAMILY
PRAYER BOOK

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# THE MOTHER'S

# FAMILY PRAYER BOOK;

OR,

## A HELP TO FAMILY WORSHIP.

DESIGNED CHIEFLY FOR USE IN THE ABSENCE OF FATHERS, AND FOR ALL HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "LIGHT BEYOND."

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THEM THAT HONOUR ME I WILL HONOUR, AND THEY THAT DESPISE ME SHALL BE LIGHTLY ESTEEMED."—1 SAMUEL, CHAP. II., VER. 30.

"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."—JOSHUA, CHAP. XXIV., VER. 15.

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# PREFACE.

In these days of busy enterprise and commerce, the frequent absence of the Christian father from his family at the time of morning and evening worship, and in many cases his entire absence from home for weeks at a time, though injurious, is unavoidable; and mothers, either from a natural shrinking from the effort, or from a real or imaginary inadequacy, are led to relinquish altogether, during the interval, the sacred duty of family worship. This omission cannot be justified in God's sight, and must exercise an influence for evil upon the young, and those who compose the domestic circle. A service of prayer specially adapted to aid mothers who are thus left, is a necessity which it is the author's present aim to meet.

The obligation to set up and maintain a family altar, is sealed upon the conscience of parents, by the highest and most binding considerations, and no controllable circumstances should be allowed to interfere with its performance.

It is cause of deepest regret, that this habit is not more seriously, nor more conscientiously cultivated by Christian parents, by heads of households, and by mothers alone in their anxieties, for the benefit to children and young people, to servants, and parents themselves, would be incalculably great.

In the domestic relation the most powerful influences exist, and the strongest impulses to good or evil are imparted.

therefore every opportunity to inspire holy thought and excite devout emotion, should be seized on by parents, and masters and mistresses. The family God has instituted, as his own provision for a godly seed, a 'nursery for the church,' and he expects that the fathers to the children shall teach the knowledge of his will, and the practice of his worship.

It is but reasonable that, while our heavenly Father upholds the family by his providence and mercy, he should be acknowledged openly by us as the God of the dwelling, and be praised as the great Source of our daily good.

Many more arguments in favour of this service, will suggest themselves to thoughtful minds, but the obstacles to its performance remain to some, in their own feeling of incapability, their great timidity, their educational deficiency, or their difficulty of free utterance, all which hindrances appear to them insurmountable. These excuses are pleaded in extenuation of the neglect of family prayer, especially in the case of mothers.

But it is better to borrow words than omit the solemn duty altogether, and it is to those who really feel helpless under their obligations and difficulties that the aid of this little volume is offered.

Adaptation to family circumstances and events as they occur, cannot be expected in any published prayers, but reference to these may be introduced by a few extemporaneous words. Some Occasional Prayers are added, for use as events that call for them may arise. Scripture lessons and appropriate hymns have been selected, but others may be chosen if these should be objected to. The hymns may *be read* or sung, or omitted altogether, as the time allows; *but as he that offereth* praise glorifieth God, it is desirable

that this part of the devotional exercise should be maintained. In many cases a hymn simply read at family worship, has been a means of much spiritual benefit.

The great aim of the present work is, to help mothers in bringing their own and their children's wants and desires before the Lord; and as long prayers are not desirable nor necessary, it has been a study to be as brief, yet as comprehensive as possible.

It will be deemed no objection that scriptural expressions are here freely made use of, as these are often most adapted to convey the desires and petitions of the soul, and have been the aids of holy men in all ages of the Church.

Simplicity of expression, and a studied avoidance of parade of language, is an indispensable element of devout prayer, which should ever be deemed too solemn and sublime a service, to admit of human display and ostentation. Our almighty Father needs no eloquence of words to work upon his divine compassion, no novelties of speech to excite his attention. His ear is bent to catch a sigh, and his mind takes in the meaning of an unuttered emotion, therefore our words should be few, but sincere and heartfelt, before the Lord.

It has been found no easy task to make great variety and avoid repetition, in prayers to be used by the same parties on the same occasions, but it is suggested that those who adopt these services might occasionally vary them by adding or substituting petitions that may arise to the mind at the time.

It is desirable also to say that these prayers need not be restricted to use by mothers, but fathers, or any heads of households, may adapt them for themselves by the omission or *varying of* parts that have individual reference. By the

alteration of the pronoun they might also avail for private and personal devotion.

It will be an unspeakable honour to be thus helpful to Christian parents, and the means of drawing down the divine benediction upon many households.

Especially will it be a satisfaction, if some mothers who have never before thought it possible for them to lead their offspring to the throne of God, should be encouraged to do so, both at the family altar, and in the secret retirement of the closet. No blessing can be expected where prayer is not the habit of the individual and of the family, and to assist in the discharge of this important duty is the desire and aim of

THE AUTHOR.

BRISTOL, *January*, 1870.

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"Prayer is the tribute of our submission, because God hath commanded us daily to offer prayer unto him as a spiritual tribute. It is the ladder of our ascension unto God; for prayer is nothing else but the soul's ascent unto God. It is the shield of our defence, because the soul of a man continuing in prayer is safe and secure from the assaults of the devil. It is our faithful messenger unto God, for it ascendeth to his throne and solicits his aid. * * * * With what face canst thou behold the sun, before thou hast worshipped him who sends that most beautiful light for thee to look upon? By what promise canst thou enjoy thy provision, unless thou hast worshipped him who in his bounty bestows it upon thee? With what hope canst thou commit thyself to the darkness of the night, unless thou hast first fortified thyself by prayer? What profit canst thou expect from thy labours, unless thou hast first adored him, without whose blessing all labour will be in vain."—GERHARD.

# First Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 CORINTHIANS, CHAP. III., VER. 1—23.

### HYMN.

Welcome news the gospel brings,
  Welcome news from heaven above—
Tidings from the King of kings,
  Tidings full of grace and love.

O ye sons of men, give ear!
  Listen to "the joyful sound;"
Better news ye cannot hear—
  In the gospel truth is found.

Truth, that makes the simple wise;
  Truth, on which the hungry feed;
Truth, the minister of joys;
  Truth, that makes us free indeed.

Welcome news the gospel brings,
  Welcome to the poor and vile;
Gladdened by these glorious things,
  Guilt and poverty may smile.

### PRAYER.

O Lord our merciful and gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, on whom we depend for life and breath and all things: We acknowledge before thee at this time our helplessness and dependence, and bow ourselves in humility at thy footstool. Thou art the great eternal Jehovah; we are but thy weak, sinful creatures upon the earth. Thou art infinite and self-existent; we are finite, and "crushed before the moth." Thou only art holy and true; we are depraved, and fallen far from all purity and perfection.

Yet we know, O Lord, by thy revelation of thyself, that thou art our reconciled Father, and hast more than

a father's love and compassion for us amidst our degradation and wretchedness, and we believe thou wilt, for Christ's sake, have mercy on our unrighteousness, and make our scarlet sins as white as snow.

We thank thee, O Lord our God, that in the light of another Sabbath day thou hast permitted us to open our eyes upon all that surrounds us in life, and hast given us health and strength once more to arise and call upon thy name. Visit us, we pray thee, at this time, with special mercy and grace. Make us all, to-day, conscious of the power of thy sacred truth as we hear or read it. We beseech thee, O our God, send thy Holy Spirit with thy word, to make it effectual in sanctifying and saving our souls. It is not the wisdom of the wise, nor the strength of the strong, that can save us from our sins, and elevate us to thine image. Even Paul may plant and Apollos water in vain. Only thou, our Almighty God, can give the blessing. With thee, O Holy Spirit, is the hidden source of all true life, and we look to thee, at this time, to pour down upon us the fructifying energies of thy divine power. Come thou, on this consecrated day, and impart to us life more abundantly. Let the dews of thy heavenly grace distil upon all our souls, and make us like the garden of the Lord. Be thou our Instructor, teaching us the knowledge of God and the mysteries of redeeming love. Make us to behold wondrous things out of thy law, and may thy renewing influences conform us to the perfect pattern of our adorable Lord and Master.

We ask thee, O merciful Saviour and Intercessor, to be with us throughout this day. May our hearts burn within us whilst thou dost talk with us by thy word. Do thou bestow upon us all those unspeakable gifts thou hast died to procure, and may we know by experience the preciousness of thy love and mercy. Oh! may it be sweet and refreshing to our spirits, after the hurry and toil of the *week, to hold* calm fellowship with thee in thine ordi-

nances; and when the duties of this holy day shall be over, may we still abide under thy blessing, and retain the sacred influence and memory of all its engagements.

We rejoice to know that many faithful servants of God will stand forth this day to declare "the truth as it is in Jesus." Oh! may sinners be saved and thy glory promoted by their instrumentality. O Lord our God, bless us as a family—those who will meet thee in thy house of prayer, and those who will remain at home. May grace and salvation be sent down to each, and let all learn to-day much of thee, and of thy holy law. May not even the youngest pass unnoticed by thee. O our Father, condescend to be our friend, and to enrich us with thy favour, which is better than life. May we esteem thy smile above the greatest earthly honours, and seek a place in thy heavenly kingdom, which will raise us higher than the noblest and best of worldly dominions.

*Be pleased, we pray thee, to bless thy dear servant now absent from us. Wherever he may be this day, be thou there. Visit his spirit with refreshing views of thy salvation, and speak thine effectual peace to him. May he hold communion high and sweet with thee, and be fitted by this day's rest and spiritual nourishment to hold on his way in life rejoicing.*

We pray thee, O God, forgive all our sins, blot out our transgressions as a cloud. May we be reconciled to thee through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, thy dear Son and our Saviour. May it henceforth become our delight to do thy holy will, and to gain thine approbation and favour.

Send out, O Lord, thy light and truth into all the world, and may men everywhere behold thy glory. Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee. Now we commend ourselves to thee, and to the word of thy grace, to help and keep us through this day, and enable us to glorify and honour thee in all we do; and we ascribe to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, everlasting praises. AMEN.

# First Week.

## SUNDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—GALATIANS, CHAP. VI., VER. 1—18.

### HYMN.

O Thou to whom in ancient time
The lyre of Hebrew bards was strung;
Whom kings adored in songs sublime,
And prophets praised with glowing tongue.

Not now on Zion's heights alone
Thy favoured worshippers may dwell,
Nor where at sultry noon thy Son
Sat, weary, by the patriarch's well:

From every place beneath the skies
The peaceful song, the fervent prayer,
The incense of the heart may rise
To heaven, and find acceptance there.

To thee shall age with snowy hair,
And strength, and beauty, bend the knee,
And childhood lisp, with reverend air,
Its praises and its prayers to thee.

### PRAYER.

O thou great and glorious God, the hearer and answerer of prayer: We assemble ourselves together on this the evening of thine own day to worship thee. May we be enabled to do so with becoming reverence and godly fear. Thou art the glorious object of all angelic adoration, and holy saints made perfect in heavenly places magnify thee.

We would, O Lord, at this time join the numerous company of thy spiritual worshippers, and prostrate our souls in humble devotion before thee. Condescend, O thou exalted Jehovah, for the sake of our Mediator Christ Jesus, to bow thine ear to the voice of our supplications, and to accept the honour and glory we would render to thee. May it be no vain thing for us to call upon thee. Oh! let us feel now the sacred and elevating influence of communion with the holy Lord God of hosts. Bless us, we pray thee, with much of thy presence, and the communi*cations of* thine own grace and Spirit, that we may be sanc-

tified, and fitted more entirely for the work of life, and for consecration to thy service. It has pleased thee to appoint the ordinances of thy house and thy worship, for the benefit of our souls as well as for the advancement of thy truth and honour in the world. We thank thee, O God, for all means of grace, and for the hope of a better state, where these helps will not be needed, but where we shall see thee as thou art, and be able to praise thee as we should. Blessed be thy holy name for thy preached gospel, by which we are taught the knowledge of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Oh! may that knowledge never be to us a savour of death unto death, but be thou, Lord, our life and our salvation; that, putting all our trust and confidence in thee, we may be prepared to meet thy coming judgment, and all the solemn revelations of eternity without terror or dismay.

This day, O our God, hast thou permitted us the privilege of waiting upon thee in the place where prayer is wont to be made. May we never lose the benefit thou hast designed thus to impart to us, but let all we have heard and felt be of lasting good to our souls. Grant that, like thy servant Paul, we may determine to know nothing among men, but Christ and him crucified. May we glory as he did, only in the cross, and be dead with Christ to the follies and sins of this present evil world. How vain and empty are all pleasures and possessions, and even all knowledge and gifts, if we have not by faith a saving interest in the blessed work of God's eternal Son, and a portion in reserve that none of the circumstances and vicissitudes of time can wrest from us! Oh! bring us by thy power, we pray thee, into an abiding union with the great Redeemer of men. May his atonement save us, his Spirit dwell in us, his work and will be done by us; and when all the ties of earthly life shall be severed, may we find ourselves safely launched upon the ocean of his everlasting glory.

We beseech thee, O Lord our God, bestow upon us thy

quickening grace, that the seed of divine truth sown in our hearts this day may spring up, and bring forth much fruit of holiness in our lives and characters. Thou hast promised thy blessing to follow thy word faithfully proclaimed. Oh! may it descend upon all of us this day, and make us thy willing and obedient servants. We would not lose amidst the employments and cares of life the good effect of our religious privileges, and earnestly seek that holy thought and sacred influence may find a lodgment in our spirit, producing right motives, sanctified tempers, and spirituality of mind.

O thou great Head of the Church, we pray thee accept the efforts of all who have this day devoted themselves in any way to work in thy vineyard; especially crown the labours of thy true ministers in every place with thy benediction. May they never have to lament over strength spent for nought, nor cry out in disappointment, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" but by thy power following their word, let many sinners be converted from the error of their way, and be delivered from the practice and dominion of all sin.

*We commend to thee, O God, thou ever-watchful God, thy dear servant the head of this house. May he be comforted in his absence from us by the sustaining assurance that thou art everywhere, and changest not. Help him to remember that what thou hast been in the past thou wilt ever be, kind and gracious, and mindful of all our necessities.*

Regard with mercy our dear children. O grant that they may early know and love thee. Pour out thy Spirit upon them according to thy promise, and may they choose their father's God for their God. Thou canst enrich us with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. We present all our worship unto thee through the mediation of our High Priest and Intercessor; and unto Him, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one Jehovah, be praise and glory for *ever and ever.* AMEN.

# First Week.

## MONDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—HEBREWS, CHAP. I., VER. 1—14.

### HYMN.

To thee, my Saviour and my Lord,
A lofty song I'll raise,
While life inspires my glowing heart,
And forms my lips to praise.

Worthy for ever is the Lamb,
That took my sins away;
But oh! what tribute can I give?—
What equal honours pay?

Blest seraphs sing thy matchless love,
And shout thy high renown;
Archangels at thy sacred feet
Lay their bright honours down.

Reign, mighty Prince, for ever reign,
Till Death himself be dead;
And let eternal ages shower
Their blessings on thy head.

### PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator and Benefactor of all men: We approach thy throne of grace this morning with feelings of gratitude and adoration. It becomes us, as thy fallen and dependent creatures, to bow ourselves low at thy footstool, for we are not worthy to speak unto thee, the heavenly Majesty, before whom cherubim and seraphim continually veil their faces, crying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty." Yet in Christ Jesus, our divine Mediator, we may come unto thee with humble boldness, assured that while out of Christ "thou art a consuming fire," yet that in him thou art propitious, and graciously pleased to be at peace with us. We therefore praise thee, O our God, for the great privilege of access to thee through the new and living way which Jesus has consecrated for us. May we ever be led to place all our trust in his finished work and perfect righteousness, and come pleading no other name or merit for acceptance with thee, but his alone.

We rejoice that thou hast raised us up in the light of a new day, and opened upon us once more "the eyelids of the morning." Thanks be unto thee for these and all natural blessings. But, O Lord, do thou raise up our souls into newness of life. Put the energy of thy living Spirit into all the powers of our being, making us spring forth into spiritual activity, and become alive to God, from the death of sin, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we may be able to shake ourselves from all darkness of soul and unbelief, and by thy grace come into thy great and marvellous light. Shine, O thou Sun of righteousness, through all the gloom and desolation of our ruined nature; illuminate us with thy glory, and cheer us with the beamings of thy love.

With this new day, O Lord, will come new duties, new cares, new responsibilities, and unknown temptations. O God, give us wisdom and strength to meet the ever-varying scenes and engagements of life in a suitable spirit. May we not be overwhelmed by its troubles and anxieties, nor ensnared by its pleasures and fascinations. Let no sin, O Lord, easily beset us, but may we "lay aside every weight, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

Feeling our own weakness, may we ever look to thee, O Christ, for strength; knowing our own sinfulness, may we often come to thee for grace. O our God, we beseech thee, help us to walk at all times in the way of thy holy precepts, and do thou hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. May we come to the close of this day with a blessed consciousness that we have not become the victim of any hurtful snare, or wickedly forsaken the law of our God.

Let all who dwell beneath this roof be the constant objects of thy merciful favour. Grant that thy smile may rest upon us for ever and ever, and may we all so live as *to gain thine approbation* and blessing. O Lord, may our

children grow up a seed to serve thee, a generation to call thee blessed. Protect their young hearts, we earnestly pray thee, from the hardening influences of evil example all around them in the world. Give to them a tender conscience, that will ever lead them to fear sin as the only thing that can separate them from thee. Having thy complacent smile resting upon us, O thou great and gracious Jehovah, may our life, even in this stricken world, be no burden, but a joy and happiness to us. We praise thee for all the alleviations and consolations thou dost afford us while we fill up the measure of our days and of our sorrows, and for the brightness that gilds our prospects as we raise the eye of faith to the distant future of our being. In the riches of thy matchless mercy and condescension thou hast promised to raise our fallen nature to the height of thy glorious perfection, and hast prepared for us a place amid the heavenly principalities and powers. Let not thy benignant purposes towards us be frustrated, we beseech thee, by our own folly and sin, but do thou, O God, make us willing in the day of thy power, and to thy name shall be all the glory.

*Bless thou thy servant whom we so much love. May he be guided and guarded by thee wherever he goes. Grant in mercy that his health and life may be preserved, and that he may return to us rejoicing in thine unfailing goodness and lovingkindness.*

May those who serve us be thy servants too. Help them to be faithful in their appointed work and labour. O Lord, let there be a speedy end to all error and delusion concerning spiritual realities, and the light of the Lord illuminate every dark understanding, and elevate every degraded mind. Be thou with us through this day, and enable us to glorify thee in all we do. We offer our worship now in the name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

# First Week.

## MONDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOHN, CHAP. X., VER. 1—21.

### HYMN.

Through the dark and silent hours
  Of the night preserve us, Lord!
Safely keep both us and ours;
  Peace and confidence afford:
We are bold, in thee confiding;
Safe, beneath thy shade abiding.

Should we never rise again,
  Till the morning of that day
When thy glory shall be seen,
  When the world shall pass away,
May we stand by thee confessed,
And with all thy saints be blessed.

Since we cannot tell to-day
  What to-morrow's dawn may bring;
Saviour, draw our hearts away,
  Far from every earthly thing:
Make us in thy service steady,
Always for thy coming ready.

### PRAYER.

Most merciful God, our heavenly Father, we draw near to thee at this hour of evening prayer with humble thankfulness for all thine unmerited goodness and favour. Thou hast been very merciful and faithful to us through the past day, and through all our past lives. We have cause indeed, O Lord, to praise and bless thee for thy loving-kindness and tender mercies, continued to us while we have been so unmindful of thy great benefits. Thy power has upheld us in life, and thy sustaining grace has made us sufficient for all the demands of duty and all the trials we have been called to bear. If thou hadst not laid underneath us thine everlasting arms we could not have continued until this day, but should long ago have made shipwreck of faith and of a good conscience. Blessed be thy *holy name*, Thou has brought us on our way safely, and

hast been our strong helper in every time of need. Here again we raise our Ebenezer, calling upon our souls and all that is within us to praise and magnify the Lord our God.

We thank thee, O thou bountiful Benefactor, for all the supplies of earthly good which thou hast vouchsafed us this day; for our health, strength, and vigour. That we have been preserved from suffering, sorrow, and want, is owing to thy kind and merciful providence.

O thou tender Shepherd of the sheep, we beseech thee, lead us into green pastures, and beside the still waters. May we all belong to thy flock, be led by thy guiding wisdom, and sheltered by thy gracious protection from all harm by day and by night. Thou, O Jesus, hast laid down thy life for thy sheep. May we all be thine, and know that thou hast died for us. Grant that we may never wander from thy fold, never err and stray from thy paths like lost sheep, but do thou, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, watch over us in all our ways, and lead us into all righteousness, for thy name's sake.

Many, O our Saviour, are our temptations to forget thee. Many snares are laid for our feet by the great enemy of all goodness, but we pray thee, blessed Lord, be thou ever near to deliver us from all the power of the evil one.

We desire to-night to bless thee for all thy special mercies; for the grace that has brought us redemption, for consolations in trouble, for thy guiding hand in perplexity, for holy influences to sanctify us, and for all the many ways in which thou dost condescend to connect thyself with our feeble nature. Thanks be unto thy name, O God, for the measure of peace we have enjoyed to-day, and for thy presence that has followed us through all our duties and engagements. May we never rest satisfied without thy smile and the light of thy countenance resting on our spirit. Life itself would be gloom and sadness, O our Father, without thy benignant regard and benediction. May we see thy gracious eye resting upon us through all

our pilgrim way, and when we stand at the end of our journey, with the darkness of the tomb gathering round us, oh! then 'be thou light about us,' and admit us to the region of cloudless day, to dwell for ever before the burning glories of thine everlasting throne.

We are now about to commit our dependent bodies to the helpless condition of sleep. O God, our Creator and Preserver, be thou near to protect us from all dangers through the dark hours of the night. Spread over us thy wing of merciful providence while we are unable to protect ourselves, and may we all arise in the light of a new morning in health and strength. O Lord our God, be thou the guardian of all whom we love. Our dear relatives and friends we commend to thy fatherly care and benediction. Be thou about their lying down as thou hast been about their path, and may sweet sleep be granted to refresh and re-invigorate them after the labours and anxieties of life. Grant, Lord, that all our dear children may lie down this night under thy smile, and sleep in peaceful repose under thy blessing. Let them never forget their obligations to thee, but at all times cherish the memory of thy distinguishing goodness towards them. Daily may they delight to honour thee, and devote themselves to thy glory as the chief end of their existence.

We pray thee, O Lord, be thou the friend of all the afflicted and sorrowful, all who are worn by toil and care. Let such find thee very pitiful and mindful of their case. Cheer them by thy consolations, and help them by the supports of thy grace. *Bless thy dear servant in his absence from us. Make him glad and happy in a sense of thy continual favour, may he be able to roll his burden upon the Lord, and do thou help him under all the duties and trials of life.* We beseech thee, forgive our sins, and hear us through our great High Priest and Intercessor, Christ Jesus, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit be *endless praises.* AMEN.

# First Week.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALMS XXIII. AND XXVII.

### HYMN.

Through all the dangers of the night
  Preserved, O Lord, by thee;
Again we hail the cheerful light,
  Again we bow the knee.

Oh! may the beams of truth divine,
  With clear convincing light,
In all our understandings shine,
  And chase our mental night.

Preserve us, Lord, throughout the day,
  And guide us by thine arm,
For they are safe, and only they,
  Whom thou preserv'st from harm.

Let all our words and all our ways
  Declare that we are thine;
That so the light of truth and grace
  Before the world may shine.

Nor let us turn away from thee;
  Dear Saviour, hold us fast;
Till in immortal life we see
  Thy glorious face at last.

### PRAYER.

O thou ever-blessed, ever-living God, fountain of life and of light: Thou art the eternal source and spring of all being, the maker and supporter of every living thing. Thou art the merciful Father and gracious Friend of mankind. Without the continual support of thine almighty power, O God, our very life must cease, and it is to thy merciful and tender care we look every moment for the maintenance of those mysterious and invisible principles of nature on which we so entirely depend for the health and nourishment of our frail bodies.

We thank thee this morning for the watchful love by which we have been sheltered from all the perils of the

night-time, and are permitted to arise in the smiling light of a new day. Be thou pleased, O our Father, to meet us on the threshold of new time with new mercies. Our wants are many and great. How much grace we need, and the influence of thy Holy Spirit, to aid and keep us in all the duties and temptations of this day!

Lord, bestow upon us wisdom to choose the good and eschew the evil, that will be present with us wherever we go. Enable us to cultivate right motives in all the associations and businesses of life, and to rise above the tendency to mean and selfish aims, that is so powerful in our fallen nature.

May we understand life to be something more than a mere passage through the various rounds of earthly experience, and filling up the requirements of our different callings, occupying ourselves only with things seen and temporal. Oh! give us expanded views of our high destiny, and the connection we hold with the unseen world, that we may be saved from the folly of those whose happiness is in the passing pleasures and vanities of earth. Blessed Saviour, be thou our everlasting portion. Oh! may we crave thy favour and friendship more than our necessary food. Let us never despise thine offers of durable riches and righteousness. Thou hast given thyself to purchase for us a crown of glory that fadeth not away, and may we, through thy grace, come into the possession of our inheritance of eternal life.

Do thou, our divine Redeemer, rescue us from the ruinous power of all sin and folly. Restore us, we pray thee, when we wander into forbidden paths, and guide us in all our plans of action by thy divine wisdom.

Let all we say and do this day, O Lord, be said and done under a recollection of coming judgment, for we must give account to thee of all the deeds done in the body, whether they have been good or evil. We beseech thee, our gracious God, to bless all of us who dwell here together as a

family. Be thou our children's God. Grant them the true knowledge of thyself, which is life everlasting. May each of them be thine. Lord, help them in early life to choose that good part which can never be taken from them. Shelter them in coming days from every snare that may be laid for their feet. Let the life-giving doctrines of thy word rule and sanctify their hearts, and preserve them from all habits of sin, and from every tendency to follow the ways of wicked men. Grant that they may ever dread thy frown and displeasure as the direst of evils, and find their happiness only in thy commands.

Condescend, thou great and gracious Jehovah, to visit this home with thy continual blessing. Thou hast said, "Them that honour me I will honour." Lord, we desire to honour thee, and seek thy glory, and would ever delight to do the will of our Father who is in heaven. Oh! come unto us and bless us. Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, and give us peace. Every day may we be able to keep thy claims in mind, and consecrate ourselves unreservedly to thy service.

*Be gracious to him who is so dear to us. Lord, may he this day abide under thy smile, and may his faith in thee daily grow stronger as he puts thee to the test of thine own word.* Hear us when we pray that thy kingdom may come, and thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Hasten the time when all shall know thee, from the least unto the greatest. O Lord, do thou now assure us of thy mercy to pardon all our sins. Cleanse away the guilt of all our transgressions. Let the blood of Christ Jesus, thy Son, be our atoning sacrifice, and by his stripes may we be healed. We commit ourselves to the work and trials of this day depending on thy help. Be thou with us every hour, and keep us in thy fear and favour. May the blessing of God the Father, the love of Jesus Christ our Saviour, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit the Comforter, be with us all for ever and ever. AMEN.

# First Week.

## TUESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 CORINTHIANS, CHAP. I., VER. 1—16.

### HYMN.

My days are gliding swiftly by,
And I, a pilgrim stranger,
Would not detain them as they fly,
Those hours of toil and danger.

Our absent King the watchword gave,
"Let every lamp be burning;"
We look afar across the wave,
Our distant home discerning.

Should coming days be dark and cold,
We will not yield to sorrow;
For hope will sing, with courage bold,
"There's glory on the morrow."

Let storms of woe in whirlwinds rise,
Each cord on earth to sever;
There, bright and joyous in the skies,
There is our home for ever.

### PRAYER.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, author and giver of all good, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in him our God: We come unto thy throne of grace and mercy this night, encouraged by thy promises, which are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. Thou hast said, "Draw nigh unto me, and I will draw nigh unto you;" "Ask, and ye shall receive." Thou hast invited us to spread all our wants and desires before thee, and, O Lord, thou knowest our needs are many. To whom can we go for their supply but to thyself, who hast infinite resources wherewith to bless us, and whose lovingkindness is ever ready to bestow all that can do us good? We beseech

thee, make us know and feel our emptiness and utter dependence, and the privilege we possess in being permitted to come to the strong for strength, to boundless stores of grace and mercy, for all we can require to answer our need. With thee, O Lord, are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and we praise thee, our gracious God, that though thou hast not manifested thyself to princes and great men on the earth, so that not many mighty, not many noble are called, yet hast thou revealed thyself unto babes, and even the youngest and feeblest may know and love thee.

We implore thee, O Lord, let us be taught the knowledge of thyself by the teachings of thy Spirit, and make known to us all the glorious mystery of thy redeeming mercy. May the blessed Spirit of God unfold to us the gracious doctrines of the cross of Christ, and may we all through thy mercy be partakers in the everlasting benefits that cross was designed to impart. Do thou make us spiritually-minded, which is life and peace. May we be able to comprehend with all saints, and to know the height, and depth, and length, and breadth of the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.

Grant unto us that faith in his atoning work, which shall assure to us the forgiveness of all our sins, and may we be able to look for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

At the close of another day, O Lord, we desire to thank thee for thy providential care over us. We have been protected from many dangers. Our frail lives have been preserved by thy power. The hand of almighty goodness has been occupied this day to maintain us in being. Oh how near hast thou been to every one of us! and thou hast not forgotten to be gracious. Lord, how unnumbered are thy favours and blessings continually vouchsafed unto us! Awaken in our hearts an ever-living gratitude to thee, and Oh! may our Christian and holy lives prove that

we have not received the grace of God in vain. May thy goodness, O our God, lead us to repentance, and to the consecration of ourselves to thee and to thy service.

We beseech thee, Lord, through the darkness be thou near us. Thou never slumberest nor sleepest; let thy watchful eye be upon us this night in all our helplessness and frailty. May peaceful sleep be granted to refresh and reinvigorate our diminished strength, and impart new power to all our life. Bestow upon our dear relatives and friends thy sanctifying and sustaining grace. In whatever circumstances they may now be placed, O Lord, be merciful to them. Cheer and support them as they pass along the weary path of life, and as thou hast been their God in the past, so be thou their portion for ever.

Almighty and everlasting Father, regard with pity and mercy the family of thy servants now before thee. Instead of the fathers may there be the children, who shall arise and call thee blessed. May they follow those who have gone before them in all the way of thy commandments, so that at last we may gather together before thy throne of glory, to serve thee in perfection with all the church of thy redeemed.

Hear us, O Lord, when we pray for the progress of thy great cause in the world. We would join the universal pleadings of thy people, that thou wouldst put thy hand again to thy work. Thou hast promised that all men shall know thee, and that Christ shall reign over all flesh, to the glory of God the Father. O God, fulfil thy word. Do thou all thy pleasure, and let us rejoice in the spread of Immanuel's peaceful dominion. Be with us when we separate for the night; meet us again in the morning. And now we praise and glorify thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALM CIII.

### HYMN.

How dearly God must love us,
  And this poor world of ours,
To spread blue skies above us,
  And deck the earth with flowers!
There's not a weed so lowly,
  Nor bird that cleaves the air,
But tells in accents lowly
  His kindness and his care.

He bids the sun to warm us,
  And light the path we tread;
At night, lest aught should harm us,
  He guards our welcome bed.
He gives our needful clothing,
  And sends our daily food;
His love denies us nothing
  His wisdom deemeth good.

The Bible, too, he sends us,
  That tells how Jesus came,
Whose power and word can save us
  From guilt, and sin, and shame.
Oh! may God's mercies move us
  To serve him with our powers,
For oh! how he must love us,
  And this poor world of ours!

### PRAYER.

O thou great and glorious God, who art infinite in thy nature, and incomprehensible in thy ways towards the children of men: Thy power is supreme and almighty, yet thy compassions are boundless, and ceaseless as thy being. Thou art always putting forth thy strength and wisdom, thy mercy and goodness, for our benefit.

We desire, O Lord our God, to bless thee for the comforts and favours by which we are surrounded this morning, and for the gracious care with which thou hast watched over us and our habitation through the perilous hours of the night. We laid ourselves down in weakness and weariness, and thou hast raised us up in strength and vigour. Thou, our faithful God and heavenly Father,

hast not been unheedful of our many and great necessities, but hast pitied us, as a tender parent, in all our dependence. Thou hast visited us every moment with thy compassionate regard, and made us continually the recipients of thy bounty and lovingkindness.

Enable us, we beseech thee, ever to cherish a becoming sense of obligation unto thee, and may we delight to testify of thy mercifulness. O may we never, by our ingratitude and neglect of thy favours, draw down upon us thy frown and displeasure. Thou, Lord, hast crowned our life with thy goodness, and hast sustained our well-being ever since we saw the light. For every want of our needy nature thou hast amply provided, and hast promised that we shall not lack any good thing. The earth is full of thy glory, O Lord, and all creation speaks thy praise, who hast spread forth thy bountiful stores in such rich profusion on every hand. O God, we will praise thee, and will bless thy glorious name for ever and ever.

Help us, we pray thee, to render not the homage of our lips only when we come unto thee, but may our hearts be filled with a living sense of all thy great and manifold goodness, and may our lives show forth thy praise from day to day.

We adore thee, O thou God of salvation, for the provision thou hast made for our souls, and that we may through thy mercy drink of the water of life freely, and eat abundantly of the living bread that came down from heaven. Teach us how to feed on Christ; how to appropriate to ourselves the blessings he has died to procure; how to receive out of his fulness grace for grace. Grant, we beseech thee, that Christ Jesus may be unto us wisdom, and righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. May he be formed in us, the hope of glory; and as he has freely offered to us of his grace and of himself, O may we freely receive.

*Condescend, thou* ever-blessed Saviour, to dwell *with* us

and *in* us. Make us all thine own, and adopt us into the family of thy redeemed. Fit us, Lord, by the operation of thy Spirit, for the place thou hast prepared above for all those that love thee. Oh! that we may be reckoned with thy people when thou shalt number up thy jewels, and share in the glorious inheritance of thy saints in light! May the beloved children of this family be folded as lambs in thy bosom, O thou tender Shepherd of Israel; and may they never wander from the paths of holiness and life. Teach them what is true wisdom, and may they ever be able to discern between good and evil. Grant that they may continually walk in the light of thy countenance, and do thou surround them daily with the drawings of thy holy love and mercy.

*Look, Lord, with fatherly love upon thine absent servant. By day and by night be pleased to protect him from all harm, and encompass him with perpetual blessings.* Graciously regard thy handmaiden before thee in all her responsibility and care. Give unto her wisdom, and grace, and patience under her various duties and anxieties. Help her to remember that thou thyself hast appointed her work, and wilt bless her in the faithful discharge of it. May she never shrink from the path in which she should go, nor fear to do what is right in thy sight. Bless thou all our dear relatives and friends. Impart to them the Spirit of thy grace and help under all their toils and cares.

Be thou, O Lord, the friend of the friendless, the helper of the weak. Compassionate all who are in any trouble. Raise the fallen, and dry the tears of all who weep. In every condition and circumstance of life let the cheering influence of heavenly truth come into the hearts of men, to impart peace and relieve anxiety, to sanctify trials and animate hope. Accept us now and at all times in the Beloved, and unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we will render glory and honour undivided and everlasting. AMEN.

# First Week.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—MARK, CHAP. IV., VER. 1—29.

### HYMN.

O Lord, another day is flown,
And we, a lonely band,
Are met once more before thy throne
To bless thy fostering hand.

And wilt thou bend a listening ear
To praises low as ours?
Thou wilt! for thou dost love to hear
The song which weakness pours.

And, Jesus, thou thy smiles wilt deign
As we before thee pray;
For thou didst bless the infant train,—
And are we less than they?

Oh! let thy grace perform its part,
And let contentions cease;
And shed abroad in every heart
Thine everlasting peace.

And thou wilt turn our wandering feet,
And thou wilt bless our way,
Till worlds shall fade and faith shall greet
The dawn of lasting day.

### PRAYER.

Unto thee, O Lord our God, thou Father and Friend of man, we come at this, the hour of evening sacrifice, to offer up unto thee our prayers and praises. In the morning we sought thy help and protection, and thou hast been pleased to hear and answer. Thy kind and gracious care has been over us throughout this day. We desire to acknowledge before thee how much we are indebted for thy tender mercies and lovingkindnesses, manifested to us through all our life. By sin and transgressions, O Lord, we have forfeited our right to thy bounty, and all claim to thy love. Yet dost thou still regard us with compassion, and hast not rendered unto us according to our deserts. Lord, *how often have* we lightly esteemed, not only thy

providential goodness, by which we are nourished and supported in being, but the more precious gifts of thy grace, and the word of God, by which our souls are fed,—by which spiritual life is maintained in our higher nature! We beseech thee, O God, make us more sensible of the infinite value of the seed of divine truth. Oh! may it have a living root in all our hearts. May our souls not be like the stony ground, where the seed had not much deepness of earth, and could come to no perfection; nor like the thorny ground, where it was choked with the cares of this world and the lusts of other things. But may the heavenly Spirit make us fruitful in every good word and work to do thy will.

Lord, create in us a hungering and thirsting after righteousness. May we never be satisfied short of a state of soul in harmony with all thy requirements.

Let nothing deter us, O our God, from the pursuit of holiness; but inspire us with a ceaseless ambition to be conformed perfectly to thy divine likeness.

When thou sayest unto us, "Seek ye my face," may our hearts say unto thee, "Thy face, Lord, will we seek." Oh! may no temptation draw us aside, and no earthly motive be mixed with this sacred purpose. We implore thee, aid us daily to do this one thing, and do thou manifest thyself unto us as thou dost not unto the world. Be not far from any of us, O thou gracious God and Saviour, but in our daily combat with evil, aid us with thine effectual grace. Be thou an unfailing source of strength to us, and at the last our exceeding great reward. We desire, O Lord, to yield ourselves body and soul unto thee, which is our reasonable service. Thou art our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer, and hast an eternal and divine and only right over us. Oh! may we ever experience the blessedness of those that do thy will, and anticipate the glory and honour thou hast in reserve for all those who are faithful unto death. Grant, we pray thee, that our dear children

may all choose thy glory as the chief aim and end of their being. Oh! may they ever delight in thy holy commandments, and find that wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. We thank thee, Lord, for the advantages they enjoy above many by whom they are surrounded. May they never disesteem those privileges, but avail themselves of them, and become wise unto salvation.

*Bless, we beseech thee, this night, thy dear servant in his temporary absence from us. Do thou protect him from every danger. Pour out thy Spirit upon him, and may he be satisfied with thy blessing, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow. O Lord, enable him to trust in thee amid his various cares and troubles, and to turn under his anxieties to thee the God and Father of all.* May our servants be thy servants, conscientiously doing all thy commandments. Oh! may they recollect that unto thee they must give up their account, and may they strive that it may be with joy and not with grief.

We would never forget, O Lord, to pray that thy cause may advance in the world. Praised be thy name for all the signs of thy coming, for all the tokens that thou art still thy people's God, and that thine arm is not shortened that thou canst not save. We believe that Christ shall reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet, and we rejoice to see his conquests going on in the world. O Lord Jesus, come quickly, and make thy foes thy footstool. Lord, we commend each other to thy fatherly blessing as we lay ourselves down to rest this night. May we sleep under thy care, and arise by thy mercy, in health and strength in the morning, prepared for the duties of a new day. Forgive us all our sins; and may the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer; through Jesus Christ, our Advocate. AMEN.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—MATTHEW, CHAP. VI., VER. 1—34.

### HYMN.

Bowed with a sense of sin, I faint
  Beneath the complicated load;
Father, attend my deep complaint;
  I am thy creature, thou my God.

Though I have broke thy righteous law,
  Yet with me let thy Spirit stay;
Thyself from me do not withdraw,
  Nor take my spark of hope away.

Mercy unlimited is thine;
  God of the penitent thou art;
The saving power of blood divine
  Shall ease the anguish of my heart.

Then let not sin my ruin be;
  Give me in thee my rest to find;
Jesus, the sick have need of thee,
  Thou great Physician of mankind.

Then shall I add my feeble song
  To theirs who chant thy praise on high,
And spread with an immortal tongue
  Thy glory through the echoing sky.

### PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, with deep humility we draw near unto thee now, desiring to worship thee in a manner agreeable to the greatness of thy majesty. We would ever acknowledge our unworthiness to approach thee, for we are sinful and depraved creatures and have lost by transgression all right to thy complacent regard and favour. We have no merit of our own to plead, no righteousness in which to appear before thee. On account of sin, it becomes us to prostrate ourselves in the dust of self-abasement, crying, "Unclean! unclean! enter not into judgment with thy servants, O Lord, for in thy sight can no flesh living be justified." We know that thy holy law has not been the rule of our life, and thy precepts have not been the guide of our steps.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own evil hearts, and have not set thy will before us as the standard of all our actions.

O Lord, we pray thee, let the power of thy Holy Spirit now renew and sanctify our nature. Give unto us a new heart and a right spirit. Enable us to be sincere in our motives and aims, not seeking to glorify ourselves, nor to appear before men holy and devout, while our hearts are filled with all selfishness, and are joined to idols.

O Lord God of truth, make us like thyself, lovers of truth and purity. Take away from us all deceit, and guile, and hypocrisy, and give unto us simplicity and sincerity of character. May the mind that was in Christ Jesus be in us, and grant us grace to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

We beseech thee, O Lord our God, help us to have our chief treasures hidden with Christ in thee. Let no earthly aggrandizement be the absorbing pursuit of our life. May we never make to us friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, but enable us to rise in our aspirations to claim the good things of thy heavenly kingdom. If we are risen with Jesus from the insufficiency of earth, Oh! may we have grace to seek those things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Lord, may no worldly cares consume us, and let no earthly trials overwhelm us. Teach us how to roll our burden upon the Lord, to trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. May we suffer no crushing anxiety to press heavily on our spirit, but come, at the call of Jesus, to receive perfect rest and repose of soul.

Merciful Father, we praise thee this morning, as a family, for thy watchful providence over us through the past night, for the health with which we have risen, and for the many comforts that surround us. To thee we owe it that we are able once more to resume the duties of life. Oh! may *the hours of this* day be passed in thy fear, and at its close

may we be able to look back and feel that we have walked with thee, and enjoyed thine approbation and favour.

Do thou, our heavenly Father, look graciously on the dear children of this household. Bless them all with thy converting grace and the teachings of thy Holy Spirit. O Lord, as they grow in years, may they increase in wisdom and in the saving knowledge of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To us their parents give prudence and discretion, longsuffering and patience, that we may be able to lead them on in the right way, and train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. While they are young and thoughtless may we bear patiently with them, and set before them an example of true godliness. Divine and merciful Jesus, be pleased to come and dwell with us, to impart to us all thy grace, that we may live in harmony and love, to thine honour and glory. May thine image be impressed upon our hearts, that, shining in thy beauty, we may reflect the lustre of thy perfections upon all around. Let the mysterious operation of thy Spirit be carried on in our souls, that we may be fitted to dwell with thee where thou art, and be partakers of thy glory. Blot out, O God, as a cloud, all our sins, and, as a thick cloud, all our unrighteousnesses, and may we find acceptance in the Beloved.

*Be gracious to thy dear servant at the head of this household in his absence from us. Make him equal to his many duties, and sustain him under all his anxieties. O lead him not into temptation, but deliver him from evil.*

Lord, let thy blessed cause prosper in the earth. Thou King of glory, come and reign in every heart, and manifest the greatness of thy mercy and power by the subjugation of all that opposes itself to the progress of thy gracious dominion. Now, Lord, hear us, and accept our morning sacrifice of prayer and praise. Go with us wherever we go, and bless us in all we do. And unto the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be glory and honour for ever and ever. AMEN.

## THURSDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 JOHN, CHAP. III., VER. 1—24.

### HYMN.

Happy, happy we should be,
If the Saviour we could see,
Walking in our midst once more,
As he did in days of yore.

Oh! how thankful we should feel
At his feet to humbly kneel;
And, as we our sins confess,
See him smile, and hear him bless!

Oh! how gladly we should try,
When the Lord was passing by,
Some kind sign of love to bring,
And hosannas loudly sing!

Oh! how much we should rejoice,
Could we hear his loving voice
Say our sins are all forgiven,
Hear him speak of joys in heaven!

Jesus, thou art still the same,
Still thou dost thy love proclaim;
Oh! come, visit us to-day,
Enter every heart, we pray.

Show thy power, tell thy love,
Point us all to life above;
Let us all thy presence see,
Call us all to follow thee.

### PRAYER.

Blessed Lord God, our heavenly Father, thou art the great fountain and source of all happiness and of all goodness. We adore thee as the ever-living God, on whom we depend for all the powers of our being. By thee are the wants of thy many creatures supplied, and thy majestic power sustains them in existence. Thou openest thy bountiful hand, we are filled with good. But if thou withhold the bestowals of thy providence, we fall into decay and perish before thee. We thank thee, O Lord, that thou art pleased to remember us in our great necessity and helplessness, *and dost not* spare the supplies of thy rich bounty.

Adored be thy name that thou hast loved us with an everlasting love. Even when we were dead in trespasses and sins hast thou regarded us with infinite compassion, and thy love has spread a full and free repast for our souls. In thy great mercy and salvation we possess unfailing stores of grace, where we can feast our souls on heavenly fare, and enjoy life everlasting. O Lord, eternity will not be too long to utter all thy praise and talk of thy loving-kindness; and our glorified souls will need all their enlarged powers to exalt for ever thy mercy and faithfulness.

Fill us at this time, we beseech thee, with the plenitude of thy goodness and grace.

Make us know what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us. O God, how condescending is thy favour, that sinful creatures such as we are should bear the name and nature of thy Son, and should be permitted to hope that when he shall appear we shall be like him, and see him as he is! Grant, Lord, that we may all become partakers of this hope, which is brought to light by the gospel, and is full of immortality; and by it may we be led to purify ourselves, even as Christ our Lord is pure.

We know that without holiness no man can see the Lord. O make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Spotless and pure and glorious are thy holy ones within the veil, but how far short do we fall of a state of preparedness to join the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven! Yet, Lord, we believe that by the effectual working of thy grace and spirit, through all the means which thou hast appointed, we *may* come unto thy glory, and serve thee perfectly in thy temple above. Grant, we beseech thee, that all sin may be eradicated from our nature, and that we may learn righteousness.

What we know not, teach thou us; what we lack of conformity to the mind and will of Jesus, O may the Spirit of God supply; and may we be enabled to live holily, righteously, and unblameably in this present evil world.

We thank thee, our almighty Father, that we see the closing hours of another day in so much mercy and comfort. Many through the past day have encountered severe storms of trouble, or have endured much terrible suffering, or intense anxiety on various accounts; but we, O our God, by thy favour and goodness, have been permitted to enjoy comparative freedom from trials, a good measure of ease and happiness, and the absence of overwhelming distress. Do thou then fill our hearts now with joyful gratitude, and help us ever to make thy praise glorious.

Be pleased to bless all of us now bending at thy footstool. Our needs are many, and our cases various. Some are young, and require thy tenderest compassion and the leadings of thy love. O draw, we earnestly entreat thee, these young hearts to thyself, thou friend and Saviour of all. May they seek thee early and find thee. Be thou their guide and guard through the many snares and dangers of their coming life, and be their portion in a blissful eternity. Day by day, as we pass along the journey of life, may we all be led by thy divine wisdom, and sustained by thy matchless power and grace. Of ourselves we are perfect weakness, and are prone to wander in paths where thy smile is never seen. How easily do we fall into temptation and sin, and how impossible do we find it to be our own keeper and counsellor! Thou ever-faithful and almighty Lord, hold thou us up, and we shall be safe. Be thou our Teacher, and we shall not err—our Good Shepherd, and we shall never go astray from the path of life.

Through the darkness of this night be thou light about us. Let no unexpected evil surprise us, and no danger come nigh our dwelling, and in the morning may we arise to praise and glorify thee. Preserve all our dear ones in health, and strength, and peace, and ever surround them with thy blessing and thy favour, which is better than life. We present our petitions and offer all our praises in the name of our adorable Redeemer, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# First Week.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—HEBREWS, CHAP. VIII., IX.

### HYMN.

Not all the blood of beasts,
On Jewish altars slain,
Could give the guilty conscience peace,
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head of thine,
While like a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
The burdens Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree,
And hopes her guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice,
And sing his bleeding love.

### PRAYER.

O thou covenant Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we adore thee as our God and Father in Christ Jesus, and delight to regard thee as propitious unto us through the atonement he has wrought out. We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have deserved thy wrath and indignation. Too often have we broken the bonds that bound us, and have lightly esteemed the mercy that was extended unto us. But now, Lord, we desire to return to thy fold. We would embrace thy covenant, and accept thy terms of salvation. Thou hast promised to be merciful to our unrighteousness, and that

thou wilt not remember our sins. O may the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb slain from the foundation of the world, suffice to cleanse away all our guilt. We beseech thee, let us partake in all the benefits and blessings of thy great redemption, and come into saving relation to thee, our divine and all-sufficient substitute. O grant that we may understand more and more of the mystery of "God made manifest in the flesh," and receive into our hearts, as well as our minds, the sublime and life-giving doctrines of the cross of Christ. We thank thee, thou condescending and gracious Jesus, that by thy wonderful incarnation and death thou hast opened up for us a new and living way unto the Father. We have not now to draw near to the eternal Majesty with the blood of bulls and of goats, or the ashes of a heifer, nor with costly offerings to dispose the Almighty God to be favourable unto us, for by thy one offering thou hast perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Having shed thine own most precious blood upon the cross, there remaineth no more sacrifice to be offered as an atonement for our sins. O Lord, since thou art the only divinely appointed Saviour, and there is none other name under heaven given among men, by which we can be saved, give us faith to believe in thee, and to place all our interests for time and eternity in thy hands. Help us with humility, yet with confidence, to trust in thee for the salvation of our souls, and may we lean on no broken reed of our own righteousness or penitence or good intentions.

We praise and adore thee, O our faithful God, for the kind and merciful protection thou hast vouchsafed to us through the hours of another night. In our time of helpless dependence thou hast cared for us with a father's tender compassion and love. We thank thee for our continued life, and for the health with which we have risen to bless thee. Many have passed the night in suffering and unrest, full of tossing to and fro, watching for the dawn-

ing of the morning, but we, by thy mercy, have enjoyed undisturbed repose. O may renewed favours excite in our hearts fresh thankfulness, and stir us up to praise.

Grant us grace, we pray thee, this day to live for thee in all we do, and to honour and glorify thee with all our powers. Let every one of us, now bowing at this family altar, be protected to-day, and at all times, from every hurtful snare and from every kind of danger. O lead us not into slippery places, and let us come under no baneful influences. Incline our hearts to keep thy laws, and not to turn aside to our crooked ways.

May our dear children be ever the objects of thy watchful care and providence. May they grow in grace as they grow in years, and in the love and knowledge of their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Lead them to choose that good part that shall never be taken from them. Grant to their parents all the wisdom they so deeply need, to enable them to bring them up in the right way, and to show them that way both by precept and example. Help us to manifest before our family, and those with whom we are connected, the living power of the doctrines we profess to believe, and may they take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus and learnt of him. Bless the servants in this house. Enable them to be humble and faithful, never losing sight of the truth that thou hast them always in sight, and knowest their work and the way that they take. We commend to thee all our beloved relatives and friends. Under the vicissitudes of their earthly life be thou to them as the munition of rocks. Hear us for thy cause in the earth. We praise thee that the light of truth is spreading, and the leaven of the gospel is going on to leaven the whole lump, notwithstanding all opposition.

We pray thee, O our God, come and bless us to-day, and may we rise ever nearer to thine excellent glory. Unto the Triune Jehovah be equal glory and honour for ever. AMEN.

# First Week.

## FRIDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ROMANS, CHAP. V., VER. 1—21.

### HYMN.

The mighty God our Father is;
We call him thus, though worms of dust;
Happy the people who are his,
And place in him a filial trust.

His children's wants are well supplied,
Their Father gives them angels' food;
No favour is by him denied,
That, granted, would promote their good.

He smiles himself; and with his smile
The bright inheritance is given;
What matter if the world revile,
When God is pleased, and smiles from heaven?

The heirs of heaven may well forego
The world's applause, nor feel the loss;
The gold is theirs, and well they know
The world's applause is worthless dross.

### PRAYER.

O thou who art from everlasting to everlasting, the immutable Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: We approach the throne of thine eternal majesty with the recollection of thy greatness and glory, and of our own insignificance in thy sight. Thou art the supreme, the self-existent, the omnipotent God, and we thy feeble, dependent, sinful creatures on the earth. Thou art fully acquainted with all the inferiority and degradation of our nature, and knowest that we are fallen and depraved. Yet we rejoice in conscious possession of a spirit allied to thine own essence; for, though sin has marred and defaced thine image once stamped upon man, he still retains some lineaments of his divine parentage. Thanks be unto thy name that thou hast not left our spoiled nature in all its *ruins, but hast* established means whereby the lost beauty

of the Lord our God may be restored to us, and we may shine forth again in more than man's first perfection. We beseech thee, O God, repair in each of us the damage of the fall, and build us up a living temple to the Lord. Re-create our souls by the work of thy Holy Spirit, and let us all be wrought by grace into the blessed resemblance to our adorable Immanuel. We desire at this time to bless thee, that while by one man's disobedience sin and death entered into the world, yet by the obedience and perfect merit of one—the Second Adam, many may now "be made righteous." O thou divine Restorer, come and reinstate us in the lost favour of our offended God, and in all our forfeited privileges; may we be able to exercise faith in thee, and enjoy all the advantages which are the fruits of thy mysterious work and passion. O Lord, being justified by faith, may we have peace with God, and the blessed hope of glory which maketh not ashamed. How unspeakable are our obligations unto thee, thou Prince of grace! Deepen in our hearts, we pray thee, every day, our gratitude for thy priceless mercy. O thou self-sacrificing Redeemer, may we know more and more of the height, and depth, and length, and breadth of thy divine love to man, and be constrained by it to a life of holy consecration to thy service.

We take up the cry of thy Church everywhere for the spread of the saving knowledge of thy grace. Let the dominion of thy love be universal, controlling the passions of men, and moulding them to the sweet image of thy gentleness and perfection.

How firm is the foundation of thy kingdom in the world, even thine eternal purpose and decree! Hast thou not said it, and shalt thou not bring it to pass? O come, thou blessed and only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords, take to thyself thy great power, and reign by thine invincible truth over all nations, and kindreds, and tribes of men.

We trust ourselves to thine unerring wisdom in the various concerns of our outward life. Day by day art thou working out before us the secret problem of thy providence regarding each of us. Give us patience and trust, we pray thee, to wait the fulfilling of all thy kind designs. When dark clouds gather, may we not be dismayed, and when the sunshine of prosperity brightens our path, may we not be too much elated. In all thy ways towards us may we know that thy purpose is unchanged, and that thou thyself art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Let no doubts arise to discourage our hearts, nor any fears of thy constant mercy and love, to cast a shadow upon our joy and triumph.

Continually, O our Father, do we see fresh reason to praise and adore thee, and this night we would exhort our souls to bless and magnify thy holy name. Once more hast thou in mercy drawn around us the curtains of the evening, and soon our bodies will be given up to the repose they so much need. We therefore commit ourselves anew to thy guardian care and watchful providence, imploring thee to be our keeper through the dangers of the night. Let no alarm come near our dwelling. Be pleased to preserve us from all disease and wakefulness, and let each of us enjoy refreshing sleep.

We earnestly seek thy blessing, O God, on those who are dear to us, our beloved relatives and friends. Let them all enjoy thy mercies, and be the objects of thy tender love and care. Bless thy handmaid amid her duties, and toils, and anxieties. May she be able to honour and glorify thee in her every-day life before those by whom she is surrounded. Grant her wisdom to train up her children in the paths of virtue and true piety, and do thou give her to reap the fruit of all her labours. O Lord, again we commend ourselves to thy blessing, and ascribe unto thee all glory and praise for ever and ever. AMEN.

# First Week.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALM XIX.

### HYMN.

All things beautiful and fair,
Earth and sky and balmy air,
Sunny fields and shady grove,
Gently whisper, "God is love."

Every tree and flower we pass,
Every wave of tufted grass,
Every leaf and opening bud,
Seems to tell us, "God is good."

Little streams that glide along,
Verdant mossy banks among,
Shadowing forth the clouds above,
Softly murmur, "God is love."

He who dwelleth high in heaven,
Unto us all things hath given;
Let us, as through life we move,
Ever feel that "God is love."

### PRAYER.

In the multitude of thy tender mercies, O our God, it has pleased thee to permit our gathering together once more as a family around thy throne of grace. We come unto thee, our heavenly Father, with a glad and thankful heart. Through thy power our physical and mental life has been sustained and refreshed, while sleep has rested upon our nature, and brought upon us the image of death.

Thou dost make the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night teacheth knowledge of thee." In all creation thy beneficence and wisdom and glory appear. O may our hearts learn to praise thee with joyful lips.

We beseech thee, make us know and understand our-

selves, the mystery of our own being. May we duly estimate the enormity of our sinfulness and ingratitude to thee, and grant us grace to repent before thee in dust and ashes. O God, may thy law, which is perfect and holy as thyself, become the ruling principle of all our lives. Help us to yield ourselves to its enlightening influence and to its purifying power. May we ever, we pray thee, be restrained by thy grace from all presumptuous sins, and be delivered from the dominion of secret faults.

O thou divine Spirit of all truth, dwell in our hearts and work all our works in us. Make us thy temple, and help us to show forth the greatness of thy praise and glory.

We implore thee, leave us not to the weakness and frailty of our fallen and earthly nature, but quicken us by thy mighty power into newness of life, and into the beauty and strength of holy character.

Let the time not be far distant, we pray thee, when offerings and a pure sacrifice shall rise to thee from the altar of every human heart. We long, O Lord, to see a wider spread of the doctrines of thy holy word, and a more universal reverence of thy perfect law. Come, Lord, and strike off the iron fetters that hold souls back from thy service, and lead them forth, we beseech thee, into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

We pray this morning for grace to support us through the duties and concerns of this day. Thou knowest, O our Father, to what cares and occupations we are appointed. Thou knowest what particular temptations will beset us, what trials and disappointments thou wilt call us to bear. We believe that thou wilt make all things work together for our good if we love and trust thee, and that thou dost watch the progress of our training here for the higher life of holy souls in thy heavenly kingdom. May every event and experience of time tend to qualify us for the possession and exercise of powers capable of adoring *and serving thee* in thy glory above.

Be thou, we pray thee, about our path, as thou hast been about our lying down, and hold us up in the way of life. Suffer us not, O our Saviour, to retain upon our conscience the defilement of any sin, but do thou daily lead us to the fountain of thy most precious blood for cleansing and pardon.

We commend to thy fatherly care and goodness every member of this family, whether present or absent. May all our beloved children be thine in time and thine in eternity. Smile upon them, gracious God, and let thy blessing, which alone maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, be their soul-satisfying portion. May they love Jesus, who has given himself for their deliverance from the power and punishment of all sin.

We ask thee, O God, to bless their parents. Every day impart to them wisdom and grace in the discharge of their important duties. Let nothing divert them from the responsibilities of family life, but may they continually labour to bring their dear offspring to the knowledge of Christ Jesus, and to the practice of all godliness. O Lord, when the work and care of this passing time are over, may we all meet before thy glorious throne, never to be separated, but to enjoy together in thy presence fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God and our Father, be glory everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

# First Week.

## SATURDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—EPHESIANS, CHAP. VI., VER. 1—24.

### HYMN.

Soul, thy week of toil is ended,
  And a voice, whilst world-cares fly,
With the closing hour is blended,—
  "Rest is coming—rest is nigh."

Nearing Sabbath, how I bless thee!
  Let thy calmness fill my breast,
Let me even now possess thee,
  And anticipate thy rest.

Is my journey full of sadness
  Through a desert wild and drear?
Be to me a well of gladness,
  Bid me quite forget my fear.

So, when life's long week is over,
  Blessed it will be to die;
Angels whispering, as they hover,—
  "Rest is coming—rest is nigh."

Then the heavenly rest to enter,
  In thy mercy, Lord, be mine;
Rest of God, the sun and centre
  Of the bliss that is divine.

### PRAYER.

O thou our Father which art in heaven, great Parent of all intelligent beings: We thank thee that through Christ Jesus thou art our reconciled God and Father, and that we may come and present ourselves before thee, assured that thou dost regard us with a father's tender love, and art the rewarder of all those that diligently seek thee. Thy great and precious promises encourage us to ask largely of thy bounty, and thy faithfulness in the past emboldens us to expect the fulfilment of all that thou hast spoken.

We praise and bless thee, O God, for the mercies of the past day—for our freedom from distress and affliction, from

want and necessity, and for the bestowal of all needful good. Continually art thou making thyself known to us as a God of love, and mercy, and condescension. We pray thee, grant us a disposition to fear and love and obey thee, and let every day as it passes bear witness to our zeal for thine honour and glory.

Thy holy word points out to us the way in which thou wouldst have us to go. Do thou give us grace and strength, we beseech thee, to walk in the path to which thou hast called us.

O Lord, with a natural tendency to self-will and self-seeking, it is not possible for us, unaided by thy grace, to conform perfectly to all thy just requirements. We go astray as soon as we are born, and the natural evil of our hearts is constantly excited and strengthened by the evil that is in the world. Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our thoughts and desires to what is good. Help us to enter at the strait gate, and walk in the narrow way of thy commandments. O God, enable our dear children to submit to those whom thou hast placed over them as their natural rulers and guardians. May they obey their parents from love to thee, and in subjection to thy will. Do thou graciously accept all their efforts to please thee. Teach them how they may best honour and serve thee, and may it be well with them upon the earth. Grant to us all wisdom to take to ourselves the precepts and counsels of thy word that are adapted for each of us in our different spheres and relations of life; and may we ever make it our business to do what we know to be in accordance with thy will and pleasure.

Pour out upon us, O Lord, the spirit of true prayer and supplication. May we be able to persevere in the same with unwearied watching if the answer to our prayers be not immediate, believing that thou dost hear, and that thine arm is not shortened that it cannot save and bless us. We thank thee, most merciful Father, that we all see the

close, not only of another day, but of another week, in comfort and health and peace. Many commenced this portion of time with us who are now in eternity; some in everlasting happiness, and others in the darkness of everlasting despair. Impress our hearts, we earnestly pray thee, O God, with the solemnity of our position in this uncertain and frail state of being, drawing nearer, every day and hour, to the realization of such important changes as thy word declares to be before us. Quicken, O quicken us all into a desire to be ready for the vast disclosures of the unseen world.

To-night we finish the duties and businesses of another week. We turn aside for a little while from the cares, and cease from the toils of every-day life, and with this evening's service desire to gather up our scattered thoughts and varied experiences in preparation for the Sabbath which draweth nigh. Come, O our gracious Lord, and bless us to-night. Soothe thou our ruffled spirits with thy words of peace. Forgive us all the sins of the past week. Too often we have done the things we ought not to have done, and have left undone the things we ought to have done. May the precious blood of Christ cleanse our consciences from guilt, and may we now enjoy that spirit-rest which true faith alone can impart.

Let all our dear absent ones be under thy smile and benediction, and may they and we arise on the morning of thine own day with a joyful sense of thy presence and favour. All our petitions and all our praises we present in the name and for the sake of our divine Redeemer, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOHN, CHAP. XX., VER. 1—31.

### HYMN.

The door of mercy's open still,
And Jesus cries, "Whoever will
  By me may enter in:
I am the door, and I have died,
Salvation's door to open wide
  For sinners dead in sin."

Then if the door is opened wide,
And none were ever yet denied,
  Who sought to enter in,
Oh, could the very weakest say,
I'm trying hard to find the way,
  But cannot get within?

Oh no, for through this open door
Are countless numbers seen to pour,
  Of sinners great and small;
And what Christ opens none can close,
Or send away the one that goes
  Obedient to the call.

### PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, we draw near to thee, on this the morning of thine own day, with sacrifices of praise and of prayer, and would render unto thee now the homage of our hearts, for thou alone art worthy of our highest adoration.

It has pleased thee, in the greatness of thy mercy and compassion, to work out such a plan of redemption for our ruined nature as may well fill us with wonder, and excite our most exalted admiration. Thou hast passed by fallen angels, yet it has pleased thee, in the plenitude of thy compassion and the mystery of thy sovereign will, to

rescue fallen humanity, and raise it again to its original glory and power. Our Immanuel took not on him the nature of angels, but he took on him the seed of Abraham, and humbled himself to suffering and death, even the accursed death of the cross, being made a curse for us. We wonder, O Lord, at the greatness and riches of thy grace and love, that man, so utterly unworthy, and not angels, greater in power and glory, should be the chosen objects of thy saving mercy. Help us to adore thy distinguishing favour, and yield up ourselves to thy blessed work of salvation.

Thanks be to thy name, thou gracious and adorable Saviour, for thine amazing humiliation to accomplish our redemption. Thou didst not despise our ruined nature, but in that nature didst taste death for every man, didst descend into the dark and lonely tomb, that as the Prince of life thou mightest rise conqueror over death and the grave, leading captivity captive.

On this holy day we celebrate once more thy triumph, and thine ascension up into the glory that was thine before the world was.

O may we know by experience both the fellowship of thy sufferings and the power of thy resurrection, that we may rise with thee from the death of sin to a life in righteousness, being set free from the dominion of all evil, and enjoying the glorious liberty of the gospel of thy grace. We thank thee for the testimony of thy holy apostles concerning the facts of thy wonderful life and death and rising again, that they have left us so full and truthful a record of what they saw, and their hands handled, of the word of life. O give us grace to receive their testimony, and to build our hopes for eternity on the witness God has given through them of his Son. Grant that we may never be guilty of the folly and sin of shutting our eyes to the light that beams upon us from the pages of thy wondrous word. O make us teachable and humble, and let no form

of unbelief hold us back from receiving the full blessing of thine inspired and enlightening truth.

We beseech thee, bestow upon us this day a spirit of true devoutness, that we may worship thee without distraction, and with much spiritual advantage. O meet us in thy house of prayer, and there make known thyself to us as our God and Father in Christ Jesus. We pray thee, impart to each of us a disposition to listen, with teachableness of mind, to the dictates of thy holy law, and with saving faith to the declarations of thy mercy and grace.

O Lord, in compassion and love look down upon our children. Make them attentive to the solemn lessons of thy word, which are taught them from time to time. May they never scorn instruction, but put a high value on all the advantages that come within their reach, desiring to know more of thee and of thy blessed work for their salvation.

*We ask thy blessing, O our Father, upon thy servant who is so dear to us. Be very gracious unto him. Shed down upon him thy peace, and all the consolations of thy glorious gospel. May he everywhere have thy presence, and be enabled under the various circumstances of life to call upon the Lord. Bless him this day with thine enriching benediction, and may he rejoice in thy goodness and mercy.*

Hear us in our supplications for the advancement of thy cause and kingdom in the world. Do thou fill the earth with thy glory. Make thy ministers a flame of fire. Inspire them with holy zeal, and with earnest desires to snatch souls as brands from the burning. Come, thou celestial Spirit, and give efficacy to the word of thy grace, that eternity itself may record the results of this day's work in thy vineyard.

Be pleased now to accept our worship in the name and through the mediation of our gracious Redeemer, and unto him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory everlasting. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## SUNDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ISAIAH, CHAP. LV., VER. 1—13;
PSALM LXV., VER. 1—13.

### HYMN.

There is an eye that never sleeps
  Beneath the wing of night;
There is an ear that never shuts
  When sink the beams of light.

There is an arm that never tires
  When human strength gives way;
There is a love that never fails
  When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fixed on seraph forms;
  That arm upholds the sky;
That ear is filled with angels' songs;
  That love is throned on high.

But there's a power which man can wield
  When mortal aid is vain,
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,
  That listening ear to gain.

That power is prayer, which soars on high
  Through Jesus to the throne,
And moves the hand that moves the world,
  To bring salvation down.

### PRAYER.

O thou our Lord and our God, to whom none ever drew near to seek a blessing of thee in thine own appointed way and were disappointed, and who takest pleasure in them that seek thee, in them that hope in thy mercy: We know that thou delightest in the assemblies of thy saints, and hast promised to be with thy Church always, even unto the end of the world. Wherever thy people call upon thee thou wilt be found of them. O thou ever-present Jesus, we believe that thou hast never forgotten thy promise, that where two or three are gathered together, agreeing

to ask the fulfilment of thy word, there thou wilt be, and that to bless them.

Without thy presence, Lord, how poor and empty a thing is worship! If thou deign not to accept our sacrifice it is in vain that we offer our oblations unto thee. Be thou, then, present with us at this solemn hour of evening devotion, to hear and answer us.

We desire of thee now spiritual blessings, the outpourings of thy great heart of love towards us, the enriching, fructifying showers of thy heavenly grace, and all the gifts thou seest good to bestow. Thou hast called us unto thee, O Lord, to receive from thee the supply of our necessities. "Without money and without price" we may obtain from thee the spiritual blessing our souls so much need.

We beseech thee, dispose our earthly minds to appreciate the good things of thy kingdom. How little do we discover of the riches of thy fulness, and how little are we stirred up to "lay hold upon eternal life," and all the unspeakable benefits it involves!

To-day thy truth has been once more opened up unto us, and we have felt "the powers of the world to come." Thou hast repeated thy call by thy word to forsake our evil ways, and return unto thee, for thou wilt have mercy upon us; and to come unto our God, for he will abundantly pardon us. O give us a truly repentant spirit. Soften our hard hearts, and make us willing in the day of thy power. Make our souls like the garden of the Lord, and instead of the thorn may there come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier may there come up the myrtle tree, and may the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Thou hast declared that thy word shall not return unto thee void, but shall prosper in the thing whereto thou hast sent it. We pray thee, fulfil thy promise, and may great results follow the setting forth of thy gospel this day. We believe in the sufficiency of thy truth to sanctify the most corrupt nature, and to raise the most abject of human

spirits. We therefore entreat thee soon to bring all such under its elevating and blessed influence. Get to thyself eternal glory by the entire salvation of our ruined world. O Lord, put an end to the fatal delusions that are dragging immortal spirits down into darkness and everlasting despair. By the preaching of thy gospel rescue benighted ones from the gloomy shades of ignorance and unbelief.

Bless all of us now before thee. Save us, Lord, from the fatal mistake of supposing we have already attained, or are already perfect, but may we be ever learning and striving to come to the knowledge of the revelations thou hast given to the world. Open to us daily the Scriptures, that we may know thee, and Jesus Christ, who is our life and our salvation.

O Lord, bless our dear children. May they be all taught of God, and strive to put into practice what they have learned this day. Through all the coming week may they carry with them the spiritual benefit of this day's sacred engagements. Let not earthly scenes, and duties, and pleasures, dry up the dews of grace that have distilled upon their souls, but be thou pleased to water them every moment with stimulating, sanctifying influence, that they may bear fruit unto holiness, and at the end enjoy everlasting life.

O Lord, be near to us every day of mortal life. Be thou our Father and almighty Friend. May we lack no good thing. May we fall into no snare, may we fail in no attempt to serve thee. O save us from the danger we are in of losing our souls by seeking the pleasures or riches of this world, and put thou into our hearts a supreme regard for the things unseen, which are eternal. To-night may we all repose under the conscious safety of thy fatherly protection, and awake in the morning rejoicing in thy faithfulness and care. May the love of God, the fellowship of the Spirit, and the mercy of our dear Redeemer, *remain with us* for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## MONDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—GENESIS, CHAP. XXII., VER. 1—19.

### HYMN.

Search the Scriptures,—they impart
  Life and love and light;
They can speak to every heart,
  And fill it with delight.

Search the Scriptures,—they unfold
  God's unbounded grace;
Learned by holy men of old,
  And shown to every race.

Search the Scriptures,—they record
  God's exhaustless power;
He who spreads the world abroad
  Creates the little flower.

Search the Scriptures,—they proclaim
  Jesus' boundless love;
All who love his precious name
  Shall dwell with him above.

### PRAYER.

O thou adorable Jehovah, who art from everlasting and to everlasting: With thee is there no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Thou hast been the same throughout all ages of thy Church, and art still the immutable Jehovah. Thou wast the God of the covenant to fallen man in the garden; to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the fathers of thine ancient people; and thy new covenant is ordered in all things and sure. We thank thee for the history of thy dealings with thy servants of old; for the example of Abraham's faith, and for the assurance of thy blessing poured out upon him and upon his seed in reward for his

trust in thee. O Lord, we beseech thee, enable us to exercise like precious faith, and to rely with unquestioning confidence on thy word of promise.

We look back to the sacrifice substituted for us on Calvary. When we were claimed by justice for our transgressions, "behold, the Lamb of God" was laid upon the altar, and became our ransom price. Lead us, O God, to regard with the utmost gratitude and admiration the finished atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. Teach us more and more every day the wonders of redeeming love. Most merciful God, grant that we may all receive the Holy Ghost, and be able to "behold wondrous things out of thy law." As we daily learn more of thy works and of thy word, may we be more deeply impressed with the solemnity of the doctrines and the glory of the revelations of thine inspired truth; and, O Lord, may we come more entirely under the blessed and sanctifying power of its sublime teachings.

Look down in infinite love on the family who dwell beneath this roof. O Lord, preserve them from temptation and from sin. We know they are surrounded by dangers, and have hearts prone to evil. Shield them by thy grace from all that would draw them into dangerous paths, and place them under thy frown and displeasure.

We beseech thee, O gracious Saviour, regard us with mercy in the variety of our circumstances, and duties, and trials. We all have the battle of life to fight. Oh! fit us for the warfare, and make us more than conquerors through him that hath loved us. Let us be enabled to wield the sword of the Spirit and to use the shield of faith; and may we even unto death be faithful, that we may receive the crown of life that fadeth not away.

We would remember before thee our dear relatives and friends. Be thou very gracious, O Lord, to every one of them. Under all their trials and anxieties may they come unto thee, for thou wilt give them rest. Let not their faith

fail, however thou mayest see fit to try them. Though thou slay them, yet may they trust in thee. Let the discipline of life be sanctified to us and to all thy people. Thou dost bring a third part through the fire to try them and refine them, that they may come forth as gold. Oh! may the refiner's fire purge away all our dross, and fit us for our Master's service.

Remember in infinite pity all who are afflicted and suffering, the poor and wretched, the tried in mind, body, or estate. O may the hidden love of God in Christ be revealed to all such, and bring them strong consolation. Lead them to seek relief from all their sorrows and anxieties at thy throne of heavenly grace; and may the words of their gracious Saviour give them rest and peace.

Lord, appear for thy Zion. Make her a praise in all the earth. Let a holy influence go forth from thy Church to bless the world, and may we see the glory of our Immanuel reflected in the pure and sanctified lives of all those who bear his blessed name.

*Look down, O God, in fatherly love upon thy dear servant, the head of this household, in his absence from us. Bestow upon him all spiritual and temporal good. We commend him to thee and to the word of thy grace, and ask thee to exceed to him all our desires and petitions.*

Bless our servants with thy heavenly benediction. O Lord, we are all one before thee; all sinners needing mercy; all dependent on one atonement, and one Spirit of grace and truth. Grant unto us all therefore the same humble faith, and when we are called up to our final account may we reap one glorious reward. Forgive our many sins, and accept our services, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## MONDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—DANIEL, CHAP. IX., VER. 1—27.

### HYMN.

How sad our state by nature is!
Our sin, how deep its stains!
And Satan binds our captive souls
Fast in his slavish chains.

But there's a voice of sovereign grace
Sounds from the sacred word,—
O ye despairing sinners, come,
And trust upon the Lord.

My soul obeys th' almighty call,
And runs to this relief;
I would believe thy promise, Lord;
O help my unbelief.

To the dear fountain of thy blood,
Incarnate God, I fly;
Here let me wash my guilty soul
From crimes of deepest die.

A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
On thy kind arms I fall;
Be thou my strength and righteousness,
My Jesus, and my all.

### PRAYER.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, omniscient, omnipresent, and eternal: Before thine all-searching eye all things and all beings in heaven and earth lie open, and to thine infinite mind and understanding they are all fully known and comprehended. Thy vast knowledge includes the minutest circumstances and events of time, and thou

art intimately acquainted with all that occurs in every world that thy mighty hand has formed. We cannot shun thy presence, Lord, nor flee the notice of thine eye. O Lord, we are very sinful. Our own hearts condemn us. We must lay our hand on our mouth, and our mouth in the dust before thee, crying, Unclean! unclean! We have done wickedly, we have rebelled against thee, and have come short of the glory of God by departing from thy holy precepts, and setting at nought thy judgments. Deal not with us as we have deserved. In thy sight can no flesh living be justified. To us, O Lord, belongs confusion of face before thee; yet we rejoice, amidst our shame and guiltiness, to know and believe that to thee, our Lord and God, belong mercies and forgivenesses; for thou art slow to anger, and plenteous in thy lovingkindness, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Behold us this night, we beseech thee, as we bow ourselves before thee, laden with the sins and follies of another day. We confess that though thou hast made all thine unspeakable goodness to pass before us, and hast made us the recipients of so much favour and blessing, yet we have not been mindful of thee even through the hours of one day. We have forgotten thy claims upon our love and gratitude, have yielded to evil tempers, have indulged selfish motives; we have lived only for this world and time, and overlooked the attractions of the higher life, and the superior objects that lie beyond the present scene.

O Lord, impart to us grace and spiritual influence to elevate our souls, and help us to live in holy conformity to all thy requirements. Pardon, we earnestly pray thee, all our sins; and when they are sought for, may they not be found, being altogether borne away by the atoning Lamb of God. May the heart even of the youngest now before thee be washed from all guilt in the precious fountain of his blood who died for our redemption, and may these dear

children, by faith, become accepted in the Beloved. Lord, grant that we may none of us forget the lessons of the past Sabbath, but endeavour to put into practice what we have learned of thy blessed truth. Amid the cares, temptations, and difficulties of our individual life, O give us grace equal to our day. May we not become enslaved to the things of this world, nor be too careful and troubled about earthly concerns, but help us, Lord, to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto us." Our tendencies are naturally towards objects of sense and sight, and we cleave to things below. Do thou renew our spirit, and raise us, by thy sanctifying grace, into a more heavenly mind. May we daily become more meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Bless thy handmaid before thee. Give unto her spiritual desires. May she be taught of God herself, and be able to teach, both by precept and example, those who come within her influence. Whatever may arise in the experiences of this day, may she meet all in a truly Christian spirit.

*Be with thy dear absent servant also, and bless him with the supply of all his needs. Succour him in peril, cheer him in despondency, and sustain him in difficulty. Oh! may he never swerve from the path of duty, and ever live under thy smile and approbation.*

Great are the expectations of thy people, O God, concerning thy glorious work in the world. Light is streaming from thy throne on all the gross darkness that covers the people. May that divine illumination spread over the whole earth, and bring true life, and joy, and heavenly peace to every human heart.

Hear us now, we beseech thee, and answer us, for the sake of our divine Mediator, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALM CIV., VER. 1—35.

### HYMN.

Lord, a little band, and lowly,
We are come to sing to thee;
Thou art great, and high, and holy:
Oh! how solemn we should be!
May thy Spirit
Teach us how to worship thee.

Fill our hearts with thoughts of Jesus,
And of heaven where he is gone;
And let nothing ever please us
He would grieve to look upon.
May we ever
Live to him and him alone.

May our sins be all forgiven,
Make us fear whate'er is wrong,
Lead us in the way to heaven,
There to sing a nobler song;
Praise and glory
To the Lord our God belong.

### PRAYER.

Once more, O Lord our God, hast thou opened upon us the light of the morning; once more hast thou raised us up from our beds in health and comfort, surrounded by all the blessings of life, and cheered by a sense of thy fatherly love and mercy. We come now to praise and magnify thy holy name for all thy various benefits towards us. Day by day dost thou make us the recipients of thy great bounty. "Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every

living thing." How large and rich are thy provisions for the support and happiness of all the creatures thy hand has formed!

Fill our hearts, we pray thee, with an abiding sense of thy wisdom and grace in providing for the life and nourishment of our souls. In the gospel thou hast spread before us a rich feast of spiritual blessing. Oh! may we all partake of its benefits, and live for ever. Let us never be satisfied with the enjoyment of earthly good only, but by an enlightened understanding come to see how superior are the more excellent gifts of thy grace and salvation. Ere long we must pass away from all connection with mortal life—from even our tenderest earthly associations; grant us, therefore, wisdom to choose thee for our portion, and to desire an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. Enable us, O God, to set our affections on things above, and not on things on the earth. This poor life is not our whole of being. We are destined to an unending existence. Help us, we earnestly beseech thee, to seek for ourselves a city that is eternal in the heavens.

Impart to each of us a deep concern to honour thee in our life and conversation, and in all our intercourse with those with whom we are connected save us from doing anything that shall lead others to scorn the holy doctrine we profess. Oh! may we walk consistently, holding forth the word of life, that we may not leave it doubtful whom we serve and to whom we belong.

O thou blessed and merciful Saviour, remember with love and divine sympathy all the families of thy people. Instead of the fathers may there be the children, who shall rise up a seed to serve thee, a generation to call thee blessed. Grant that the children *and young people* of this family may learn to know and love thee. May they be able to believe that thou hast died for them, and with simple faith commit the salvation of their souls entirely to *thy sufficient* work and merit. Send us, we pray thee,

family mercies, and thy continual smile and favour. Save us from doing anything that shall cause thee to turn away the light of thy countenance from us, and to visit us with thy just displeasure. May we always dwell together in peace and harmony, and consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

Have regard, O Lord, to those who serve in this house. May they ever walk before thee with a perfect heart, and aim to obey thee in all they do. Keep them from evil, and give them grace to do right, whatever may be the result.

*We beseech thee, bless the master of the house in his absence from us. Oh! be thou very gracious to him, and may he this day walk with God. Every moment watch over him to protect him from peril, but especially ward off from him spiritual evil. Let not worldly care and the business of life hold his soul in bondage, but may he rise above the influence of things of sense, giving up his spirit to the blessed sway of holy feeling and heavenly desire.*

Be thou with us all throughout the day upon which we have now entered. New duties must be done, fresh cares undertaken, untried paths must be trod, unlooked-for temptations and trials may arise during the hours of this day. Who, Lord, but thyself can help us under all our difficulties? who but thee give us grace to bear up against life's tide of trouble? Make us as the apple of thine eye, and shelter us under the shadow of thy wing. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## TUESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 THESSALONIANS, CHAP. V., VER. 1—28.

### HYMN.

Dread Sovereign, let my evening song
  Like holy incense rise;
Assist the offerings of my tongue
  To reach the lofty skies.

Through all the dangers of the day
  Thy hand was still my guard,
And still to drive my wants away
  Thy mercy stood prepared.

Perpetual blessings from above
  Encompass me around;
But oh, how few returns of love
  Hath my Creator found!

What have I done for him that died
  To save my wretched soul?
How are my follies multiplied,
  Fast as the minutes roll!

Lord, with this guilty heart of mine
  To thy dear cross I flee;
And to thy grace my soul resign,
  To be renewed by thee.

### PRAYER.

O Lord our God, another day of our short and hasty life is now for ever gone. We cannot recall an hour or a moment of its time. We cannot undo any of its deeds. Thou hast seen us through all the experiences of this day, and hast marked our motives and conduct under them. Thou knowest, O God, how far we have erred and strayed *from thy ways*, and thou art acquainted with all the efforts

we have made to please thee, and to overcome evil with good. It is our comfort to believe that thou dost witness the strivings of our souls after a greater resemblance to the perfect Jesus. And we pray thee, strengthen and sustain us, that we may do what is well-pleasing in thy sight.

Thou knowest the inbred corruption, the active evil of our nature. O Lord, help us to feel how deep are the stains of sin in our soul, how defiled and fallen are our spirits. As the Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots, so cannot corrupt and depraved spirits make themselves pure and holy. May each one of us before thee be led to feel our entire helplessness, and flee unto the almighty Saviour for help and deliverance. Give to the dear children, O God, thy Holy Spirit's influence to purify their hearts. Help them all to believe in Jesus to the saving of their souls.

O Lord, as our days and weeks and years revolve, and life flows swiftly on, bearing us all away into the boundless ocean of eternity, may we be preparing for the day of account. Let us not sleep as do others, but help us to watch and pray, and be ready for our Lord's appearing. We thank thee, O merciful God, for the blessed hope that our Lord Jesus will come again, and receive unto himself all those who have trusted in his grace and salvation. Earnestly do we desire the assurance that we belong to Christ; that we are his, and shall be owned of him in that day when he shall number up his jewels. We know it is not enough to call him Master and Lord if we do not his work, and bear not the character of his true disciples. Do thou, therefore, O God, put into our hearts a deep and unceasing concern to exhibit in our whole lives the power of the truths and principles of thy holy gospel. Make us in all respects faithful and conscientious. May men take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus, and learnt of him. Help us, Lord, to abstain even from the appearance of evil, and may our whole spirit and soul

and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank thee, thou ever-gracious God, for all the mercies of the day past. Thou hast warded off dangers, and spared us many sorrows and trials by which others have been afflicted. Thy blessing has made us happy, and the sense of thy fatherly care has made us secure. O continue thy lovingkindness to us through the night upon which we have now entered.

We thank thee that we can lie down in hope of peaceful repose; that our bodies are not racked with pain, nor our minds with anguish and distress. Lord, take charge of our helpless frames while sleep, which is the image of death, shall be upon us. Let no harm come nigh our dwelling, and may we be permitted to arise once more in life and health in the morning, filled with thankfulness for thy unceasing goodness and care.

We entreat thee, O our God, regard in mercy and love all our dear relatives and friends, especially any who may be tried and perplexed. Pour down into their hearts the consolations of thy glorious gospel, and cheer them with the light of thy countenance.

*Look in great mercy on thy dear servant absent from us. O Lord, visit him with sweet thoughts of thy faithfulness, and may he stay himself upon his God.*

Be thou pleased, Lord, to hear us when we pray for the prosperity of thy cause. Let all error, and superstition, and wickedness be done away, and the principles of thy holy religion prevail throughout the whole world. Hear and accept our service at this time, and we will ascribe to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, all glory, praise, and dominion, world without end. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—LUKE, CHAP. XVIII., VER. 1—27.

### HYMN.

O Father God, enthroned on high,
I scarcely dare to come to thee;
I can but bow my head and cry,
O Lord, be merciful to me!

I cannot walk the heavenly road,
Nor from the tempter's power flee,
Nor throw away sin's heavy load,
But, Lord, be merciful to me!

I dare not lift my eyes to heaven,
Or utter these poor words to thee,
Or ever hope to be forgiven,
If thou wert merciless to me.

But thine own word, so full of love,
Shows me thy heart, and there I flee;
I cast myself upon that love,
O Lord, be merciful to me!

### PRAYER.

O thou eternal God, who dwellest in light inaccessible, high and lifted up: Thy throne is exalted far above the heavens, and thy dominion is over all the earth. Thou art the object of all true human and angelic adoration. Thou seekest only such to worship thee as do so in spirit and in truth, in sincerity and humility. O Lord, may we never forget, in approaching thy footstool, that though thou dost for Christ's sake condescend to hear us, yet art thou the heart-searching God, who seest through all things and all beings, and art acquainted with all our ways. Thou dost perceive every hidden motive, and desire, and thought of our spirit.

O Lord, never would we encourage in ourselves a proud and ostentatious estimate of our own goodness, nor boast,

like the self-righteous Pharisee, that we are not as other men are. Rather would we be clothed with humility and contrition on account of our conscious guilt and unworthiness of the least of thy mercies. With the penitent publican we would cry, "God be merciful to us sinners." Prevent us, O Lord, by thy grace, from all hypocrisy in the concerns of our souls. Let us never deceive ourselves as to the possession of true holiness. "He that doeth righteousness is righteous." May we therefore strive after the genuine spirit of Christianity, and in our lives and tempers exhibit before the world the principles of the holy doctrine of Christ. Make us all thy faithful earnest followers, O Lord, that we may meet thy solemn judgment with joy and triumph, not with shame and confusion of face.

We beseech thee, look upon the family before thee. Put thy blessing upon all their hearts, as thou didst put thy hands upon children in the days of thine earthly life. O Lord, suffer them to come to thee, and may they be adopted into thy spiritual family. How many are the perils that surround them! How defenceless are they under the mischiefs the evil one would do them! O thou good Shepherd, fold them all in thy bosom, and shelter them from the fiery darts of the great destroyer.

Thou hast called us together again this morning in peace and health, after another night's refreshing sleep. Through all the hours of danger and darkness thou thyself hast been our powerful protector. While many have been enduring restlessness and suffering, we have been enjoying ease and refreshment. While many have risen to conscious poverty, want, and disease, and to realize anew the anguish of despair and unsupplied necessity, we come before thee this morning loaded with thy benefits, bountifully fed, comfortably clothed, and surrounded by all that can minister to our ease and enjoyment in life. Not more than others we deserve, yet hast thou given us more. It is by thine

especial mercy and free grace that we are made to differ from others around us. Receive, we beseech thee, our thanksgivings for thy great goodness and lovingkindness towards us. Oh! may we never forfeit thy blessings by neglect or forgetfulness.

Lord, follow us through every hour of this day, and help us to be faithful and very humble in all we do. Continue to bestow upon us spiritual benedictions, and feed our souls with the bread of eternal life.

Oh! help us to receive Christ Jesus into our hearts, as our life and salvation. May he be "formed in us the hope of everlasting glory." Blessed Jesus, come unto us and make thine abode with us to-day. Without thee we can do nothing. Thou art our "Alpha and Omega,"—our mighty all in all—"the author and finisher of our faith." Oh! be thou our friend and helper through all our appointed work and trials. Whatever we find to do, aid us to "do it heartily, as to the Lord." Whatever we are called to bear, may we submit to it in the fear and to the glory and praise of God.

Gather us together again, O Lord, at the close of the day, without sorrow, without guilty recollections, without fruitless regrets, and without affliction, if it please thee. Enable us to watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation.

Bless, O our Father, all with whom we are connected. Impart to them thy grace and Spirit. Help and support them under the toils and troubles of life, and fit them for thy glory above.

*Be pleased to be with him whom we so much love. Grant to him every day thy fatherly benediction. Under all his anxieties be his comforter, and enable him to cast all his care upon thee.*

Bless thy work in the earth, and accept the efforts of all thy faithful servants. Blot out our sins, and receive our worship now, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOHN, CHAP. XIII., VER. 1—30.

### HYMN.

And is there, Lord, a cross for me,
As through this wilderness I stray,
Which, if I would, I must not flee,
But thy divine command obey?

I would not, Lord, pass by that cross,
For thou hast placed it in my way;
To turn aside would be my loss,
I therefore lift my heart and pray:—

Show me the cross that I must bear;
Bend my proud heart, that I may take,
In holy faith and humble prayer,
The cross of shame for thy dear sake:

For thou didst take a cross for me,
And on it all my sins didst bear;
Its agony thou didst not flee,
That in thy glory I might share.

Thou soon wilt take the cross away,
And place the crown upon my brow,
In that bright world of endless day,
Where I no more a cross shall know.

### PRAYER.

O Lord our gracious God and Father, this night we render unto thee praise and thanksgiving for all the mercies and blessings of the past day. We sought Thy protection and help in the morning, and thou hast answered our petitions; hast made us sufficient for all the *duties of* the day. We acknowledge that we are indebted

unto thee our God for ability to prosecute the affairs of life, to fulfil all the demands made upon our energies and character. Without thee we are altogether helpless, therefore unto thee, and not unto us, be the glory.

We bless thee, O God, our compassionate Father, that thou hast supplied all our wants. By thy bounty we are fed. By thy kind providence we are sustained in being. Oh! crown all thy goodness with thy perfect gifts, and bestow upon us the better blessings of thy grace.

Thy word displays the beauties and glories of thy divine attributes, portrayed in the face of Jesus Christ. Oh! may we learn of Him, who is the "brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person." Let the spotless character of our Immanuel fill us with admiration, and inspire us to seek his perfection. He has left us an example, that we should follow his steps. Oh! grant us those spiritual endowments by which we shall be able to exhibit in our lives the true excellences of our blessed Redeemer. Lord, thou seest how far short we come of thy likeness, how little resemblance we manifest to our great Pattern! Thou knowest what is in man, in every man, and Thou knowest who they are that betray thee before the world, by holding a profession of thy name, and of submission to thine authority, while their heart is far from thee,—taken up with the love and pursuit of worldly gains and pleasures. Search us, we pray thee, and try us and "see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting."

May we never meet the doom of those who will appear before thee without a wedding garment. Oh! make us sincere and humble in all we profess. Help us often to ask our own hearts, "Is it I?" And may we never trust in our strength of purpose, or resolution to follow thee, but lean ever on thine almighty power and mercy.

Thou, who didst pray for Peter's faith, that it might not fail him, intercede for us, to save us from the ruin of the

unfaithful servant. Oh! make us ardent in following after holiness and seeking salvation. Let nothing satisfy us short of perfect conformity to thy will.

Regard, with grace and favour, all that dwell beneath this roof. Be Thou pleased to make one in our midst. Oh! abide with us! Let us have Thy continual presence and blessing. Lift thou up, O Lord, the light of thy reconciled countenance upon us, and give us peace. Visit us, we pray thee, with thy protection and effectual benediction. Keep us from all harm through the dark hours of night, and may we rest in healthful sleep under thy loving care, and mighty providence. Pardon, O Lord, all our transgressions, continually we need to come anew to the fountain opened for sin, and for uncleanness. We pass no day without disobeying Thy holy law, and contracting guilt in our conscience. Let the blood of Christ avail as a sin-offering for every one of us. May we have faith to make his finished atonement our own, and to bring us into the possession of peace with God, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Bless the dear children before thee. Oh! renew their hearts, and save them in the Lord, with an everlasting salvation.

*We ask Thee to bless thy dear absent servant. Be present with him to cheer, and comfort and keep him. Oh! give him peaceful repose, and grant him every day thy favour.*

Hear, Lord, our prayers, for the advancement of thy cause in the earth. We rejoice in the knowledge that thy word is spreading; that men are casting their idols to the moles and to the bats. Oh! let there be a speedy end to all superstition and idolatry, and may the purifying principles of thy holy gospel prove their divine power in elevating all classes and conditions of men. Accept us now and exceed our petitions, for Christ Jesus' sake. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALM CXXXIX.

### HYMN.

Jehovah God! thy gracious power
On every hand we see;
Oh! may the blessings of each hour
Lead all our thoughts to thee.

If on the wings of morn we speed
To earth's remotest bound,
Thy right hand will our footsteps lead,
Thine arm our path surround.

From morn till noon, till latest eve,
The hand of God we see;
And all the blessings we receive,
Ceaseless, proceed from thee.

In all the varying scenes of time,
On thee our hopes depend,
In every age, in every clime,
Our Father and our Friend!

### PRAYER.

We draw near unto thee, O thou King eternal, immortal, and invisible, under a sense of our need, and of our entire dependence upon thee. Day by day we rest for life, and all its enjoyments and supports, altogether on thy sovereign will and pleasure. Thou couldest easily deprive us of all sources of human happiness, and couldest cast gloom and sadness on our way. Oh! make us conscious how utterly helpless we are, and how deep our poverty and emptiness, that we may lay hold on thy strength, enrich ourselves *with thy bounty*, and drink of the exhaustless streams of *thy mercy*.

We acknowledge before thee our guiltiness and unworthiness of thy divine regard and favour. Thou knowest all about us. Before thy resistless glance, our entire nature lies open. Though thou art invisible to us, yet are we altogether known to thee. Oh! may we be duly affected by the consideration of thine omniscience, and of thine omnipresence. We tremble while we think that thou, our Creator and Judge, art cognizant of the evil that dwells in us; yet we rejoice that thou knowest what is good too. "Lord, all our desire is before thee." We beseech thee, forgive our iniquities, and accept our sincere love and devotion.

May we this day be able to watch against the tendencies of our corrupt nature to what is sinful. Preserve us from the malicious snares of the Evil One, "who goeth about seeking whom he may devour." Make us careful, O Lord, to keep our conscience free from guilt, that we may be happy in a sense of thy regard and approbation. "Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us." We pray thee give us grace to estimate aright the things of this world. May we not be engrossed by the employments, and duties, and associations of mortal life, as if this were our final home; but may we be able to maintain a continual apprehension of the superiority of "things unseen, which are eternal."

Be thou our Guide through all the intricacies of our pilgrimage, and direct us, O Lord, by thy matchless wisdom in all the dangerous paths of life. Often are we perplexed, and know not the way we should take. Often the obligations of duty are obscured by worldly considerations, or rendered difficult by conflicting influences, so that we cannot plainly discover the way in which we should go. O Lord do thou, then, shine upon the road. May we be kept from erring in judgment, and always hear a voice behind us, saying, "This is the way, walk thou in it."

*Enable us to* pursue, notwithstanding all hindrances,

the upward path of thy holy commandments, "hearkening unto the voice of the Lord." Thanks be unto thee for the open declarations of thy will, and for the revelations of thy word. Thou hast given us precepts and principles for guidance in all difficulties, and for direction to all duties. May each one of us choose the way of life, and press forward in the Christian race. Oh! magnify the riches of thy grace and power, by upholding us amid our discouragements, and preventing us in all our temptations, making us "more than conquerors" over the evil that so easily besets us.

We would join the universal prayer of thy Church for the progress of thy salvation. O Lord, make thyself known in the hearts of men everywhere as "mighty to save." Thy word declares that "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the face of the deep." May men soon "know thee, from the least even unto the greatest."

Come now, Lord, and bless us as a family. We ask for family mercies, and look up to thee for a father's blessing. May this not be a lost day to any of us. Let us all have grace to live for some good purpose to-day, recollecting that thou wilt call us to account for every hour of time, and for every advantage thou hast placed within our power. We beseech thee to pardon our transgressions. Remember not against us any of our sins. May the precious blood of Christ avail to wash away our guilty stains, and to make us white and clean in thy sight. Oh! may the experience of every day find us more advanced in practical godliness, in all that constitutes fitness for the inheritance incorruptible and undefiled. Hear us now, O Lord our God, in these our poor imperfect petitions, for we look unto thee through our divine Mediator and Intercessor, Christ Jesus, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, we ascribe ceaseless praise. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## THURSDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 JOHN, CHAP. I., VER. 1—10.; PSALM XXVII.

### HYMN.

Eternal Light! eternal Light!
How pure the soul must be,
When placed within thy searching sight
It shrinks not, but, with calm delight
Can live, and look on Thee!

Oh! how shall I, whose native sphere
Is dark, whose mind is dim,
Before th' ineffable appear,
And on my naked spirit bear
The uncreated beam?

There is a way for man to rise
To that sublime abode:—
An offering and a sacrifice.
A Holy Spirit's energies,
An advocate with God:—

These, these prepare us for the sight
Of holiness above:
The sons of ignorance and night
May dwell in the eternal Light,
Through the eternal Love!

### PRAYER.

Almighty and everlasting God, thou sun and centre of all glory and of all life. Thou art light, and "in thee is no darkness at all." Thou "coverest thyself with light as with a garment." We are altogether shrouded in the darkness that sin and ignorance draw down upon the spirit. How dense would be our mental gloom if it were not for the shining forth of thy truth and grace. Where Jesus, the light of the world, is not known, there "gross darkness" still "covers the people," and only in proportion as He reveals himself can light arise to illuminate men's souls.

O God, thou hast been pleased once more to withdraw *the source of* natural day, and it is night. Now, thou

callest us away from the various avocations of life, to seek that repose which is necessary for the nourishing and strengthening of our physical and mental powers. Be thou near us through the season of darkness, to guard us from every danger.

We thank thee, Lord, for the goodness thou hast vouchsafed unto us through the past day. Thy rich bounty has continued the supply of all our necessities.

Thou hast not forgotten *us*, O merciful Father, in our many needs, yet how unmindful have we been of the gracious source of all our blessings! How little have we thought of the hand that was giving, of the arm that was upholding, of the smile that was cheering us!

We have turned away our eyes this day too much from thee, while thou hast kept thy watchful eye every moment upon us. Our attention has been occupied with the concerns and pleasures of our mortal existence, whilst thou hast been caring with divine consideration for the good of our souls, making all things conspire for their advantage.

O Lord, how few are the thoughts we have sent forward to-day into the unseen world, and how small the influence eternal and spiritual things have had over us! We beseech thee, our merciful Father, forgive our worldliness and ingratitude towards thee, and deal not with us as we have deserved, but in the midst of merited wrath, remember mercy.

We implore thee, compassionate our infirmities, and help us against our inbred corruptions. Some of us have evil tempers hard to curb, and strong wills hard to rule. Some have one sin, and some another, that easily besets us, sources of trouble, or difficulty, or hindrances to vex and harass us. Lord, look down upon us, we pray thee, and give us grace to overcome in the conflict. Make us victors in the strength of him who hath loved and died for us.

Especially help the children of thy servants who are such strangers to their own weakness, so unequal to with-

stand the wiles of the evil one, so easily captivated by temptation, who find it so difficult a task to deny themselves, and walk in the narrow way of thy precepts. Lord, by thy mighty power shield them, by thy grace implant deep in their souls the holy doctrines and principles of thy word. Teach them daily how to wield the sword of the Spirit, how to use the shield of faith that they may be able to resist all the fiery darts, that are aimed at their destruction. Oh! make them thy peculiar care in all their efforts to seek thee, and in all their strivings against sin.

We pray thee, Lord, to be the friend and helper of those whom we love. This night be present with them all. *Keep thy dear servant from every harm. Leave him not, nor forsake him, but be thou his ever-present, all-sufficient God.*

We beseech thee, hear us, for those who are ignorant and out of the way. Bless the efforts of thy people to bring wanderers within thy fold. Thanks be unto thy name that so much has already been done, but, O Lord, what thousands are still in worse than Egyptian darkness! They see not the intense woe that lies before them, and feel not the strong power that is crushing them. Lord, have mercy upon all who are following the devices and desires of their own wicked hearts, and have no desire for thy love and friendship.

May the servants in this family esteem the advantages they enjoy. Help them to "seek thee whilst thou art to be found, to call upon thee whilst thou art near." O Lord, may thy mercy surround us all to-night, we commit our helpless bodies to thy merciful protection, to thy tender care. Shield us from disease and death, from all terror and alarm. Raise us up again in the morning, full of joy and thankfulness, surrounded by fresh proofs of thine unceasing love and bounty. Accept us, O our God, through the mediation of our divine Lord and Saviour, and unto him, with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be equal and never-*ending praises.* AMEN.

# Second Week.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ISAIAH, CHAP. LIII., VER. 1—12.

### HYMN.

Though all the beasts that live and feed
Upon a thousand hills should bleed,
  Though all their blood should flow;
The sacrifice would be in vain;
The stain of sin would still remain:
  Sin is not cancelled so.

A "better sacrifice" than these
Must bleed, in order to appease
  The anger of the Lord:
No blood has virtue to atone
For man's offence, but his alone,
  Whose title is THE WORD.

He came, in love to sinners came:
Eternal honours to his name!
  He bowed his head and died.
A full atonement now is made,
The ransom by his death is paid,
  And justice satisfied.

### PRAYER.

Ever merciful and ever faithful God, we are permitted by thy kind and gracious providence to come together as a family this morning in health and peace, surrounded by every comfort, and enjoying the supply of all we need. Through the dark hours of night thine eye that never slumbers nor sleeps has rested upon us. Thou hast thyself kept watch around our bed, and warded off from us all the evils that might have overtaken us.

It has pleased thee to spare our lives, and renew our exhausted strength, and thou hast brought us to the beginning of a new day, that we may have another opportunity to seek thee, and more time wherein to glorify and honour thee with our active service.

*O Lord our* God, how merciful are thy provisions for our

help! Thou givest 'more grace.' Grant unto us, we pray thee, fresh supplies of spiritual life and power this day, that we may more worthily serve thee, and magnify in our lives and conduct, thy holy name. Oh! may we all be strong to labour and to wait. Lord, help us in fulfilling the duties and obligations of life this day. Make us "diligent in business, yet fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Thou hast thyself appointed our work, and called us into the different spheres and circumstances in which we are found. Oh! help us to accept cheerfully the task we have to do, whatever it may be, and in all our life-work may we keep the thought of eternity vividly before us, hastening on toward our desired end.

We bless thee, most merciful God, for the gift of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, that thou hast sent him into the world to be the propitiation for our sins, that he gave himself a sacrifice and an atonement for our transgressions, and that "by his stripes we are healed." When there was no eye to pity, and no arm to save, thine eye of infinite compassion pitied, and thine arm of Almighty power alone brought salvation. Out of the depths of thine heart of tenderest love arose the great and merciful plan of redemption for sinful man, and in due time thine own eternal Son was "born of a woman, made under the law, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." "All we like sheep had gone astray," and "the Lord did lay upon him the iniquity of us all." Oh! how great thy love and condescension, thou despised and rejected Jesus, that thou wast willing to be made our substitute, and to suffer in our stead, all the fierce wrath of our offended God! We rejoice with joy unspeakable in all the important issues of thy marvellous life and death. Oh! may we know by blessed experience what it is to be partakers of thy great salvation. Give to each of us true and saving faith in thee,—a faith that will appropriate to ourselves *the* divine blessings thou hast to bestow. O our *God, be with* us through all the circumstances and events

of this day. We know not what may be before us. We cannot control the issues even of a single hour. Oh! then, do thou be very near, and give us the assurance that whatever happens to-day, or at any time, thou knowest it altogether; that nothing can come upon us at unawares to thee. Thou art the great sovereign of our lives, and of all that concerns us, and we are safe, safe for ever, in thine eternal keeping.

O Lord, let the dear children before thee be kept this day from the corrupting power of all sin. Guard them from the many forms of temptation by which they are so closely beset. May they "cease to do evil and learn to do well." Oh! may their lives be early consecrated to the blessed service of their adorable Lord and Saviour. We commend to thy care and compassion all our beloved relatives and friends, wherever they are, and under whatever circumstances they may be placed. Supply thou all their wants. Appear for them under all their difficulties, and bring them safely out of all their tribulations.

*O Lord our God, be thou very gracious to thy dear servant now absent from us. Amidst his cares give him power to believe in thy faithful promise. In all his perils be thou his protector. In every toil and labour be thou his support and strength. If he is perplexed and anxious, do thou show him the way in which thou wouldest have him to go, and may he perpetually be the object of thy watchful care and love.*

Give thy blessing, O Lord, with all efforts made in thy name for the good of men. Let no faithful service in thy cause be in vain. Oh! quicken the progress of thy truth. Send down mighty outpourings of thy grace and spirit upon all classes and conditions of men. Save thy church from the abounding influences of worldliness and superstition and will-worship, and oh! let spirituality and true godliness maintain their power in thy Zion. Have mercy upon us, Lord, and forgive our sins, and accept us at this time, for we ask all in the name of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ.* AMEN.

# Second Week.

## FRIDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—MATTHEW, CHAP. XV., VER. 1—29.

### HYMN.

There is a way that leads to death,
A way that many go,
In spite of all that wisdom saith,
In spite of future woe.

This way is smooth, 'tis fair, and broad,
'Tis pleasant to the sight;
But woe to those who take this road!
It leads to endless night.

Another way there likewise is,
That leads to joys above;
But few, alas! will travel this,—
'Tis not the road they love.

This road is rough and narrow too;
Nor does it please the eye;
But though 'tis difficult to go,
Its end is certain joy.

### PRAYER.

O thou ever-present God, hearer and answerer of prayer: We are assured, in coming to thee, that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of all who diligently seek thee. Thou hast heard the prayers of thy people in all ages of the Church, and hast never said unto the seed of Jacob, "Seek ye me in vain," hast never failed to fulfil thy promises of grace and salvation to those who wait upon thee.

We thank thee, for the examples thy word affords, of undaunted faith in thy power and willingness to bless. May we be encouraged by the study of these to put all our trust and confidence in thee. O Lord, if it should please thee to try *us* by delay, may we be able to hold on to thy promises, and allow no doubts to cloud our hope, nor fears to hinder our belief of thy word. Thou *dost offer* abundant blessings for our acceptance, and dost

invite us to come and take of the water of life freely. We praise thee, that all the great and important benefits of the gospel may be obtained "without money and without price," for, O Lord, we are abjectly poor, and have nothing to give thee in return.

Help us to come to thee to-night in a right manner, and with becoming feelings to receive what thou seest good to bestow. May we be able to come divesting our hearts of all self-righteous boasting, of all vain confidence, and may we have grace to humble ourselves, confessing our deep and entire obligations unto thee.

We are very weak and feeble in our purposes of good, very selfish and self-willed, apt to make ourselves our own end, to forget that we are bought with a price; prone to overlook the divine and only source of all our blessings, and of the saving mercy prepared for us before we had any being. Lord, give us grace to overcome the evil that dwells so persistently in us, that mars so much the good we would do, that makes us often unhappy, and our example injurious. Most merciful Father, teach us by thy Holy Spirit what we ought to know, for we are ignorant, and our minds are but partially enlightened by thy truth.

The paths we have to tread are often intricate. Our way is sometimes dark, and hedged up, and we cannot see what thou wouldest have us to do. In all such difficulties be thou thyself our guide, and the man of our counsels. Leave us not, O our Father, to the follies of our own understanding, nor to the temptation to seek our own gratification and ease, but help us to keep thy glory before us as the end at which we aim, and enable us to magnify thee, in all our life and conversation.

Look down on us all with fatherly love and benediction to-night. Especially regard with tender compassion the children of this family. O God, how dependent they are every moment on thy merciful providence and care!

Give them grace, we pray thee, in their tender years, to seek thy favour and walk in thy ways. May they esteem thy approbation above all earthly good, and never fear to do right though men should despise them. Glory be to thy name for all the happiness and comfort in life thou hast given them to enjoy, and for the spiritual advantages that attend them. Oh! may they have wisdom to employ these privileges aright and grow up a seed to serve thee, a generation to call thee blessed. May our servants be found faithful. Save them from the temptations of their station in life, and give them grace to depart from every evil way.

Lord, we pray for the prosperity of thy Zion, and for the increase of the power of thy truth in all the world, for the coming of the latter-day glory, and for the universal reign of Christ and his gospel in the hearts of men. Grant that soon an end may come to the great and wide-spread dominion of sin, and that righteousness and truth may everywhere prevail.

Be very gracious, O our God and Father, to those for whom it becomes us to pray. We would not forget to bring before thee, in the arms of our faith and affection, our beloved relatives and friends, *and thy dear servant, the master of this house.* Let the richest of thy blessings descend upon them all. *May thy servant be protected from every danger. Oh! guard him every moment. Bestow upon him all grace. May he ever possess a grateful sense of thy loving-kindness and tender mercy, and be able to trust thee with every interest that is dear to him.*

Lord, hear us to-night. Let our evening oblation rise up acceptable to thee through the mediation of our great High Priest and Intercessor.

Pardon, we pray thee, all our transgressions. Give us grace in coming time to be more watchful, more prayerful, more sincere in thy service, and we will render to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one equal undivided *Jehovah, praise,* and glory, and honour everlasting. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ISAIAH, CHAP. I., VER. 1—31.

### HYMN.

Keep silence, all created things,
And wait your Maker's nod:
My soul stands trembling, while she sings
The honours of her God.

Chained to his throne a volume lies,
With all the fates of men,
With every angel's form and size,
Drawn by the eternal pen.

My God, I would not long to see
My fate with curious eyes,
What gloomy lines are writ for me,
Or what bright scenes may rise.

In thy fair book of life and grace
Oh! may I find my name,
Recorded in some humble place,
Beneath my Lord the Lamb!

### PRAYER.

Our Father who art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name. Enable us to reverence and fear and magnify thee, who art the supreme exalted Jehovah, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Great art thou even amidst thine unfallen and glorious Cherubim and Seraphim, and thine hosts of spiritual principalities and powers,—the sublime object of their adoration and worship.

It is condescension in thee to receive the praises and service of pure and sinless beings before thy throne, who "cease not day nor night crying, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty.'" How much lower must thou stoop to accept our poor feeble worship, who are but dust

and ashes in thy sight. Our foundation is in the dust, and all our righteousnesses are but filthy rags. All we do is spoiled by sin. Even our prayers are not free from pollution.

We are conscious in drawing near to thee, of guilt rising up like a barrier between thee and us, and of sin that has caused thee to hide thy face from us. How much there is in us that renders us unequal to thy requirements, unworthy of thy regard and complacency! O Lord, our God, we come not unto thee because we deserve any favour at thy hands, we mention not our own name, and have no merit of our own to plead. But thou hast thyself, in mercy, given us a name by which to come unto thee, a righteousness in which to appear before thee, that is perfect and divine. Merciful and infinitely gracious art thou, O our God, for thus providing for us in the depths of our helplessness and despair. We may draw near boldly unto the throne of thy heavenly grace, to obtain mercy and help in every time of need, through our "great High Priest who is passed into the heavens."

This morning, we come in the multitude of thy mercies, and present to thee our sacrifices of prayer and praise. We desire to express to thee our deep sense of thy continued goodness and mercy towards us. Ever art thou following us with thine unexhausted bounty. Again are we gathered together in solemn worship to testify of thy faithfulness. Oh! fill our hearts with thankfulness for thy great love. We are now brought in safety to the close of another week. Its past days, with all their sins and backslidings, all their worldliness and selfishness, all they can witness for or against us are now before thee, laid up in the record of thy vast mind, thou heart-searching, reintrying God. Oh! help us to repent truly of the evil we have done and felt.

Enable us this day to walk circumspectly, redeeming the time. Let the children *and young people* before thee, learn to watch continually, and pray against the beginnings of

sin that are as the letting out of water. May they recollect that as weeks and months and years flow on, so their life is rapidly advancing, and must soon end; and they will have to render an account to thee of how all the time thou hast suffered them to live in this probationary state has been employed. May the youngest of them have a conscience in what they do, and strive to live for some good purpose.

We beseech thee to dwell amongst us as a family, as thou didst dwell with thine Israel of old,—our guide, and glory, and defence, our God in all we need. May we feel and know that thou art in this dwelling; and here not to terrify, but as our Father and our Friend, to bless and help us.

We ask thee to be the God of those that serve in this household. Make them faithful to thee and to us. Teach them the lessons of thy holy truth. May they understand that when this short life of toil is over, a long eternity will follow, in which they will reap the fruits of all the deeds done in the body. We commend to thee in love and trust our dear relatives and friends. Oh! be thou very pitiful to them. Lay not upon any of them more than they are able to bear. Be thou near to revive those who may be drooping, to calm and support the troubled and tried; and be thou their all in all.

Hear prayer, Lord, for the peace of Jerusalem. Make thy Zion a praise in all the earth. Oh! help on the work of man's salvation from the power of darkness, and his translation into the kingdom of thy dear Son. Stay, we pray thee, the progress of whatever opposes itself against the pure and divine doctrine of Christ crucified for man's salvation, and may the power of the love of Jesus melt all hearts into the obedience of faith. Accept us now, and keep us this day in peace and safety, for Christ's sake alone. AMEN.

# Second Week.

## SATURDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOHN, CHAP. XIX., VER. 1—42.

### HYMN.

As flows the rapid river
With channel broad and free,
Its waters rippling ever,
And hastening to the sea;
So life is onward flowing,
And days of offered peace,
And man is swiftly going,
Where calls of mercy cease.

Say, hath thy heart its treasure
Laid up in worlds above?
And is it all thy pleasure
Thy God to praise and love?
Beware! lest death's dark river
Its billows o'er thee roll,
And thou lament for ever,
The ruin of thy soul.

### PRAYER.

Once more, O our faithful and merciful God, we present ourselves at thy throne of grace, to bless thee for the favoured circumstances in which we have passed another week. How much there is in our lot to fill our hearts with joy and thankfulness, and to assure us of thy love and mercy. "The lines are fallen unto us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage." Thou hast been mindful, O thou kind and gracious Father, of our necessities, and hast withheld from us nothing that would be for our real benefit.

We bless and adore thee at this time for the spiritual privileges that have been granted to us. We have had opportunities to grow in grace, and in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Thy word

has been daily presented to our attention, and we have daily received instruction from its sacred pages. In how many ways hast thou been teaching us and manifesting thyself to us! Oh! grant that we may ever be learning more and more of thy glorious character, and the mysteries of thy grace and salvation. May we desire, above all things, to know thee, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

We "call upon our soul, and all that is within us to bless" and praise thee, O Lord, for thine unspeakable gift. Thou didst not withhold thy Son, even thine only Son, but to save a lost world, didst send him down from thine excellent glory, to be the Substitute and Redeemer of sinful men. Let the belief we have of the facts of his sufferings and death be a transforming power in our souls. Grant that we may not receive the truth into our understanding only, but into our hearts, and be drawn, by the love of Christ, to obey his commandments. Recollecting at all times what he has done and suffered for us, may we be willing to do and suffer much for him. We know that he gave up himself to the whole work and will of God for our salvation; and may we devote ourselves in humble faith and gratitude, to follow him in the regeneration.

O thou adorable Saviour, how sublime thy self-sacrifice! how vast thy condescension in being made a sin-offering for us! Every day may we bear in mind our debt of love to thee which is greater than the value of our utmost efforts to repay. Eternity *itself* will not be long enough to sound forth all thy praises, and to magnify thee.

Lord, we have not through the past week walked in thy ways without wandering. Often have we done things we ought not to have done, and have left undone things that we ought to have done. We have sinned and broken God's holy laws; but now, Lord, we come bringing our

burden of guilt to thy Cross, and looking up to thee there we confess our sins. Oh! may faith help us to receive the atonement offered by thee for our transgressions, and do thou cleanse us thoroughly from every stain of guilt. May we know the power of thy death and resurrection, and grant that we may lie down this night at peace with God.

We beseech thee, prepare our minds for the coming Sabbath day. In goodness and wisdom thou hast appointed one day in seven, on which thou dost call us to cease from our worldly toils and cares, and lay aside our pleasures and pursuits, that we may come unto the mount of holy communion, and seeing thy glory, may be transformed into the same image. May we enjoy thy teachings, O Holy Ghost, on thine own day. Help our dear children to value the means of grace, and to treat thy word and ordinances with becoming reverence. Oh! call them by their powerful voice. Let them hear thee saying to them, "Give me thine heart," and grant that they may be willing to yield unto thee their whole spirit, and soul, and body, which is their reasonable service. Help them, Lord, with the closing hours of this week, to put away all foolish thoughts, and separate themselves from all their usual occupations, that they may employ to advantage one day in seeking to know thee, and thy great salvation.

*We commend to thee their dear absent parent. Lord, be with him, and grant him help to turn away his mind from the various concerns of this life, and to meditate on things of eternity.*

O God, may much blessing rest upon all who shall hear thy word on the coming day. May they hear for eternity, and with a disposition to attend to the things thy ministers shall proclaim, touching the kingdom. Now, O Lord, take us under thy care through the darkness, and raise us up again in the light. Be thou our God here, and our portion for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *AMEN.*

# Third Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALMS LXXXIV AND CXXII.

### HYMN.

Great Creator, who this day
From thy perfect work didst rest;
By the souls that own thy sway,
Hallowed be its hours and blest;
Cares of earth aside be thrown,
This day given to heaven alone.

Saviour, who this day didst break
The dark prison of the tomb,
Bid my slumbering soul awake,
Shine through all its sin and gloom;
Let me, from my bonds set free,
Rise from sin and live to thee.

Blessed Spirit, Comforter,
Sent this day from Christ on high;
Lord, on me thy gifts confer,
Cleanse, illumine, sanctify;
All thine influence shed abroad,
Lead me to the truth of God.

### PRAYER.

Blessed be thine holy name, O thou faithful God and Father, for the dawn of another holy sabbath-day. Thou hast in mercy granted us a measure of healthful repose, by which our bodies and spirits have been refreshed, after the toils and cares of the past week. We rejoice, O Lord, that for a little season all worldly business and labours may be put aside, and that we may spend one day in sacred duties and delights. May it be no vain thing for us to call upon God, the living and true God.

While thousands are falling down to their idols of wood and stone, and thousands more are worshipping their unknown gods, the imaginations of their own hearts, or are yielding themselves to the service of the world and the unrighteous mammon, we rejoice that we are coming to the God who, at sundry times and in divers manners, revealed himself to his faithful servants, and who, by his word and Spirit, will manifest himself now unto all those who diligently seek him. We earnestly desire, O thou Father of lights, to advance in acquaintance with thyself, who art the one object in the universe alone worthy to occupy the entire attention and study of all intelligent beings, and we would seek to discover more and more of the glorious mysteries of thy nature and of thy revelation. Do thou, our divine Teacher, "show us the Father." Discover to us the depth of the riches of his love and mercy, and all those gracious attributes of his character that are comprehensible by us. Most condescending God, do thou make all thy goodness pass before us, and proclaim the name of the Lord unto us. Help us to come with suitable reverence this day into thine holy place, not rushing thoughtlessly into thy divine presence, remembering how highly exalted thou art, the thrice holy God, who cannot endure sin or any hypocrisy.

May our worship be free from pride, and levity, and insincerity. We desire, O Lord, to receive of thine abundant fulness, grace for grace. Impart thy grace and blessing, we beseech thee, to every one of us. Let none return empty away from the source of all good, but come laden with the riches of the love and mercy of Christ Jesus. Come, thou divine Redeemer, and hold sweet intercourse with every heart here to-day. Be pleased to hear our cry and bless us, as thou wast ever ready to bless those who came to thee on earth; and may we all rejoice in a sense of thy presence and benignant regard.

*Be thou,* O Lord, with those who from unavoidable

circumstances will be absent from thy house of prayer this day. Let them receive some droppings of the showers of mercy sent down upon all thine Israel. Help them, we pray thee, though apart from the great congregation, to present to thee acceptable worship; hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place and answer them.

Let thy ministers come forth prepared to proclaim the gospel of thy grace to perishing souls, and may many be led this day into the enjoyment of the peace of Christ, which passeth all understanding.

We beseech thee, let Sabbath benedictions descend upon us as a family. Beam, O thou Sun of righteousness, through the darkness of our ignorance, and enlighten us with the light of saving truth. Let not even the youngest of us be a stranger to thy marvellous lovingkindness, but may we all know something of the great work by which thou hast redeemed man to God. Oh! may we be saved from the wrath to come, from the dominion of evil in our hearts, and may none of us be missing when thou shalt number up thine elect, and gather the wheat into thy garner.

*O God, be very near to thy dear servant to-day, and may he feel thy nearness to the comfort and joy of his spirit. Help him to cast away all the trammels of worldly care and business, and all the ensnaring attractions of earthly life, to commune with thyself in the holy duties of this consecrated day.*

May our beloved relatives and friends be refreshed with thy smile. Let their burdens fall off as they draw near to thy throne of grace and mercy, and their sorrows be dried up as they come unto the God of all consolation. In the greatness of thy mercifulness blot out our transgressions, and assure us of thy pardon, that we may be at peace with thee. Lord, let our morning sacrifice now rise up acceptable to thee through the mediation of our adorable Redeemer, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, our Sanctifier, be everlasting praises. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## SUNDAY NIGHT.

**Scripture Lesson—Revelation, Chap. XXII., Ver. 1—21.**

### HYMN.

We speak of the mercy of God,
So boundless, so rich, and so free,
But what will it profit my soul,
Unless 'tis relied on by *me?*

We speak of the Saviour's dear name,
By which God can sinners forgive,
But still I am lost and undone,
Unless in that name *I* believe.

We speak of the blood of the Lamb,
Which frees from pollution and sin,
But its virtues by me must be proved
Or I shall be ever unclean.

We speak of the glory to come,
Of the heaven so bright and so fair,
But unless *I* in Jesus believe,
I shall not, I cannot be there.

### PRAYER.

Ever-blessed and ever-merciful God, our heavenly Father, "Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice." What reason we have to renew our thanksgiving before thee, and have many proofs of thy faithfulness and lovingkindness towards us. Let not our advantages and distinguishing favours rise up in judgment against us, but, O Lord, grant us wisdom to use them all for our soul's best interests.

We praise thee for what we have heard this day of the pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. Enable each of us to take deep draughts of that living stream, and find it the source of true life to our spirits. Oh! may the holy and sanctifying influence of thy worship this day and at all

times tend to meeten us for the higher worship and more exalted service of the heavenly temple above. We rejoice to know that in the paradise of thy glory no sin or imperfection can taint our enjoyment of thee, or interrupt our sacred peace. Into the new Jerusalem there entereth nothing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie. There shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and the Lamb shall be in it, and God himself shall wipe away all tears from off all faces. O Lord our God, we long for a title to the glories and perfections of that heavenly place, where thy saints shall ever delight to adore and serve thee with all their unfettered and enlarged powers. Make us earnest and faithful, and sincere, we beseech thee, in all we do for thy honour and glory upon earth, that the eternal work may be our unfailing blessedness.

O Lord Jesus, fit us for thy coming. May we ever be ready to say, 'Come quickly,' having our lamps trimmed and our lights burning, and being in all respects like unto men that wait for their Lord, that when he cometh and knocketh we may open unto him immediately.

Regard us with infinite love and mercy as we now bow before thee. Thou readest the hearts and thoughts of each. The youngest of us has not escaped thy notice throughout this day, and at no moment can we hide from thee. Thou knowest, Lord, whether or not thy word, that we have heard and read, has reached our heart and touched our conscience, or whether we have heard without emotion, without affection, without belief. We implore thee, send thy mighty Spirit, that instructions may be sealed upon our hearts, so that the good seed of the kingdom may not be lost, but take deep root, and bring forth much fruit in our future lives, to thy honour and glory.

Pardon, we pray thee, our inattention, our hardness of heart, and the wandering of our thoughts in thy worship, and impart to us that teachableness of mind that will lead

us to sit at the feet of Jesus, to learn of him who is "a Teacher come from God."

How many faithful and prayerful efforts have been made in thy name during this Sabbath-day, to draw men into the knowledge of thy love and salvation, to convince them of the evil of sin, and their need of a Saviour. We pray earnestly that all such labours may meet with thine effectual blessing. Thou willest not the death of any soul, but rather that all should come to repentance. O God, say thou unto those who are dead in trespasses and sins, 'Live,' and thy power can impart the spirit-life they need. May thy mysterious grace accomplish the sanctification of all ruined souls. Put forth thy mighty hand, and the dry bones shall spring forth a great army.

We would supplicate thy blessing, O Lord, upon those with whom we are associated in public worship—those who join with us in praising thee in the great congregation. May the dayspring from on high visit them all, and the light of the glory of the Lord shine round about and within them. Grant that thy servant on whose ministrations we wait may be enriched with all needful gifts, that he may come forth in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, and be made the means of spiritual benefit to those who come under his teaching and influence.

*Be very gracious, our heavenly Father, to our dear absent one. We trust thou hast not forgotten him among the thousands of thy people this day, but hast communicated to him thy rich grace. Keep him, we entreat thee, by thy kind and powerful protection. Let no cares disturb his peace and no affliction fall upon him.*

Now we commend ourselves to thy merciful keeping through the darkness. Raise us all up again in the morning, prepared for our various duties and avocations. Forgive us all our sins, and accept our evening sacrifice, through our great High Priest, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## MONDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 KINGS, CHAP. XVII. VER. 1—24.

### HYMN.

Jesus is our Shepherd, wiping every tear;
Folded in his bosom, what have we to fear?
Only let us follow whither he doth lead:
To the thirsty desert, or the dewy mead.

Jesus is our Shepherd. Well we know his voice,
How its gentlest whisper makes our heart rejoice!
Even when it chideth, tender is its tone:
None but he shall guide us; we are his alone.

Jesus is our Shepherd. For the sheep he bled;
Every lamb is sprinkled with the blood he shed;
Then on each he setteth his own secret sign,
"They that have my spirit, these," saith he, "are mine."

Jesus is our Shepherd. Guarded by his arm,
Though the wolves may raven, none can do us harm.
When we tread death's valley, dark with fearful gloom,
We will fear no evil, victors o'er the tomb!

### PRAYER.

We adore and magnify thee, O thou covenant God and Father, for all the bountifulness and variety of thy dealings with us, and with all thine intelligent creation. Thou art infinitely wise and good to all whom thy hand has made; yet how mysterious often are thy ways, and past finding out. How far are we from understanding all the meaning of thy providence. Thou dost not altogether exempt even thine own people from the common lot of humanity, for 'man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upwards,' and thine own children as well as others, are visited often with sorrow.

What reason have we to rejoice, O Lord, in the belief that amidst all the vicissitudes of life thou carest for those, that put their trust in thee, and "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him; for he knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust." Thou dost fully understand the nature and extent of all our necessities, and art cognizant of all our secret sources of anxiety and distress. We thank thee that we can come unto thee still, as to the God of the prophet, unchangeable, and may trust in thee, as he did, for our daily bread. Thou hast promised, O God, that thus trusting, verily we shall be fed. Help us, we pray thee, at all times to rest assured that thou wilt never leave nor forsake us, but wilt supply our utmost need while we continue to depend upon thee. To whom can we go but unto thee, our merciful God, under all the bitter griefs and harassing sorrows of our mortal life? Thou only canst dry the mourner's tears. Thy consolations alone can give light in darkness, and life in death. "As one whom his mother comforteth, so wilt thou comfort us, and we shall be comforted."

May we receive into our hearts all those blessed truths of thy holy word that are the only foundation of hope and peace to our wretched nature. Enable us to leave our frail and uncertain lives altogether to thy disposal and thy care. Thou knowest what is best for us, and wilt do with us what seemeth right in thy sight. None are secure from the swiftly flying arrows of death. Oh! may all before thee feel the uncertainty of their hold on life. May they be led to seek thee early, to give their heart's affections to Jesus in their youthful days. Prepare them for the uncertainty of future events, and for the vast disclosures of the unseen state to which we are all hastening.

By thy special mercy, O God, we are permitted to commence with this day the hours and engagements of another week. Once more we apply our hands and minds to the *various concerns* that demand our attention. Be pleased

to come, Lord, and preserve us from sinning amidst all that might draw us from the path of life. Only thy divine power and wisdom can make us sufficient for the requirements of duty, and all the combats with evil that will arise in our way. Do thou strengthen us with might by thy spirit in the inner man. Lord, we are ignorant of what a day may bring forth. Troubles, disappointments, and vexations may be hovering round us. We may have the bread of sorrow to eat, the bitter cup of woe to drink, but, O Lord, with thy smile lighting up our spirit, and thy voice whispering, "It is I, be not afraid," we can brave the sharpest storm, and rejoice under the heaviest tribulations. We beseech thee, let none of the dark passages of our life be rendered darker by our failing to consider the obligations to obey and honour thee, which should at all times constrain us to faithfulness and trust. Oh! may we be the holier, and the more Christ-like for all the discipline with which thou art pleased to exercise us.

Help our children to strive this week to do thy will and thy work. In all that occupies them may they have a tender conscience, never forgetting that the Lord Jesus, who will be their Judge, is with them always, with his eyes of fire searching through and through their nature, and taking record of all their sins. O help them, gracious Lord, to make thee their friend, by bowing their hearts to thy demands, and putting their trust in thee alone for salvation.

Let those who serve in this house commence this new week in thy fear, and work every day in obedience to thy commands. Oh! may we rejoice together as a family, in thine abounding goodness, and increasing care and loving-kindness towards us; and when all family ties on earth shall be severed, grant that we may be reunited in the kingdom of thine everlasting glory. We ask thy mercy and blessing in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## MONDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOHN, CHAP. VI., VER. 1—27.

### HYMN.

Lamp of our feet, whereby we trace
  Our path when wont to stray;
Stream from the fount of heavenly grace,
  Brook by the traveller's way.

Bread of our souls, whereon we feed,
  True manna from on high;
Our guide and chart, wherein we read
  Of realms beyond the sky:

Word of the everlasting God,
  Will of His glorious Son;
Without thee how could earth be trod,
  Or heaven itself be won?

Lord, grant us all alike to learn
  The wisdom it imparts;
And to its heavenly teachings turn,
  With simple, childlike hearts.

### PRAYER.

O thou almighty and everlasting God, we are emboldened to draw near unto thee by the gracious assurances thou hast given of thy willingness to draw nigh unto us. Thou art more ready to help and benefit us than we are to seek and trust thee. In how many ways dost thou daily and *hourly* show thy lovingkindness unto us! Yet how

unmindful are we of the great and divine source of all that we esteem good and blessed! Many of thy favours we overlook without even recognising the hand that bestows them upon us; and how few and poor are the returns we render for thy great compassion and unceasing bounty! Enter not into judgment with us, and remember not against us our sin and ingratitude; but according to thy mercy remember thou us for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

We bless thee at this time for our daily bread, and for thy mindfulness of all our returning wants. Thousands of thy creatures are now in deepest poverty, and know not where to obtain the bread that perisheth; but we, O our Father, are amply supplied, and are not left to feel the cravings of unsatisfied hunger. It is owing to thy sovereign will and mercy that our lot is not one of sorrow and necessity. Fill our hearts, we beseech thee, with humble thankfulness for all thy benefits. What reason have we to praise thee, also, that the bread of eternal life has come down from heaven to meet the hungering of our souls after righteousness!

May we learn to value aright the spiritual food that is provided for us in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Teach us how to labour for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life.

Let none of the anxieties or pleasures of life deter us from man's chief end—the glory of God. Grant that amidst all that would depress and cast us into despair, we may hear our precious Saviour saying unto us, "My grace is sufficient for thee, my strength is made perfect in weakness." Cheer us, Lord, under all our discouragement, and aid us in all our labours and difficulties. Without thee, we should be infinitely wretched, and life on earth apart from thy smile and approbation would be but weariness and gloom.

Be thou the God of this dwelling. May we know and worship no other God before thee, but may the whole

homage and service of our hearts be thine now, and thine alone for ever.

Look down, O our heavenly Father, with all the tender compassion of thy loving nature upon the children of thy servants before thee. Make them thine, and be thou *their* God and everlasting Friend. Almighty Spirit, convert their souls from the power of all sin. Impart to them a new heart and a right spirit, and may they have a scriptural title to all the privileges of thy true saints.

*We ask thee, O Lord, to bless their absent parent. Be thou with him amidst all his worldly cares and anxieties. Support him day by day, and let thine arm of almighty power be his strength.*

Never would we forget to pray that thy truth may become triumphant over all error, and superstition, and wickedness. O Lord, grant that the dark places of the earth may be irradiated by the light of thine everlasting gospel, and all hearts be sanctified by the word of the Lord. Give peace in our time, O God. Let the reign of righteousness bring good to the people, and in all places may there be those who fear the Lord, and that think upon his name. Withhold men from the pursuit of sin, and from the absorbing love of pleasure and worldly gain, and impart to them the grace that leads to holy and heavenly desires.

O God, be merciful to *us*, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us. Remember thine own covenant, that is ordered in all things and sure, and includes both spiritual and temporal food. May we lie down this night at peace with our Maker; and if we wake no more on earth, but in the unseen state, may it be before thy glorious throne and in thy blessed presence for ever. Now to God only wise be glory through Jesus Christ for evermore. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ECCLESIASTES, CHAP. XI., VER 1—10., CHAP. XII., VER. 1—14.

### HYMN.

Watch and pray! fast fades the day,
And night will soon be here;
The end of all things is at hand,
And Jesus will appear.

Watch and pray! fast fades the day,
And thousand voices cry,
"Prepare! prepare! the time is short,
His coming draweth nigh."

Watch and pray! fast fades the day,
And work is to be done;
The harvest must be gathered in
While lasts the summer sun.

Watch and pray! fast fades the day,
And what a long long night,
For those who cannot meet their Lord
With feelings of delight.

Watch and pray! fast fades the day,
Oh! cry while yet there's time,
"Lord Jesus, take my sins away,
And make me wholly thine."

### PRAYER.

O God, almighty and everliving God, universal Father of mankind, great Fountain and Source of all life and happiness. Thy nature is immutable, and thou art infinite and unceasing in benevolence towards us. It is because thou changest not, and art not weary of showing mercy that we continue until this day surrounded by blessings, countless as the sands, and loaded with thy benefits.

But, Lord, whilst thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, we are the subjects of many vicissitudes. Our lives through various stages run, and we pass through many phases of human experience. How uncertain are we of every step in advance of the present moment! The morning of life, however fair and beautiful, does not always

culminate in noon. Youth does not always ripen into manhood. Our sun may go down while it is yet day. We beseech thee therefore, O God, give us wisdom to avail ourselves of all our advantages while they are ours. The present time comes to us charged with many responsibilities and privileges. May we have grace to understand and appreciate the day of our merciful visitation. Help us to sow the seed, and having confidence in the promise, cast our bread upon the waters, believing thou wilt give us fruit in due season. O Lord, regard with infinite compassion our children now before thee. Write upon their hearts the solemn instructions of thy holy word. Teach them how to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Enable them to choose the paths of true piety, and walk in the way of thy commandments, before the evil days come in which their life itself will be a burden, and all its pursuits a weariness.

It becomes us, O our God, to bless and adore thee this morning, for the mercies of the past night. Thy kind and gracious providence has shielded us through the darkness from all harm, and we have once more risen in health and comfort, the living—the living to praise thee. Now, Lord, we are about to resume the duties of our different spheres, and the occupations to which we are called. Oh! come and vouchsafe to us the strength and wisdom we so much need, to keep us in the straight and narrow way of obedience to thy holy law. We shall all find temptations to be overcome, and difficulties to be encountered in the journey of life, and we ask the help of thy Spirit in all these.

Lord, we do desire that thou shouldst receive us to thy Paradise above, when the day of our present existence is over, but we know that "without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Thou art infinitely pure, and canst not suffer in any degree the presence of sin or defilement. Oh! renew, we pray thee, our polluted fallen nature, and create *within us a clean* heart. Make us holy as thou art holy,

and fit us by thy grace, for an inheritance in the kingdom of glory and perfection. May we daily gain some measure of preparation for the great future that lies before us. O Lord, let those of us who have no part nor lot in the matter of salvation, be led to see the great importance of a life of faith on the Son of God. Open closed eyes, soften hard hearts, and make us all susceptible of heavenly and spiritual influences. O God, teach us to dread the power of bad habits, and the mysterious force of evil in our nature, and under a sense of our helplessness, may we make the God of Jacob our refuge.

Have pity, we beseech thee, on the multitudes that will pass heedlessly into the rush of busy life to-day, forgetful of their soul, and all its requirements and tendencies. Send some message of mercy to the careless and worldly. May some voice reach them from thy word or thy providence, that shall recall them to the things that make for their peace.

*O most merciful and gracious Father, bless him whom we so much love. Grant him this day thine especial benediction and favour. Be thou as a wall of fire round about him, and very near, to keep him in all his ways. May nothing interfere with his pleasure in serving thee, or hinder him from trusting in thee.*

O Lord, hear us, we pray thee, when we plead for thy great work in the world. Let the silent progress of truth and right never be interrupted. Fill the earth with thy glory, and all men's hearts with thy praise. May the time not be distant when there shall not be found a spot where men have not been enlightened by the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

O our God accept us now, in these our morning sacrifices. Forgive all our sins, and be pleased to remember us this day for good. We ask it in the name of Jesus, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory everlasting. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## TUESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—HEBREWS, CHAP. II., VER. 1—18, AND PSALM VII.

### HYMN.

Eternal honour be to him
  Who saved us by his blood;
His love shall be our joyful theme,
  The boundless love of God.

No words can tell its depth and height,
  No love can equal his;
The love of God is infinite,
  Like him whose love it is.

No sacrifice appeared too great
  The love of God to prove,
And thence we learn to estimate
  The greatness of his love.

Yet all we know is, that his love
  Exceeds all other far,
How far, not all the hosts above
  Are able to declare.

But what we know, makes wealth and fame,
  And pleasure seem but loss;
And renders dear the glorious name
  Of him who bore the cross.

### PRAYER.

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks, for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare. This day has brought us many fresh proofs of thy power and benevolence. Thou hast sustained our soul in life and hast not suffered our foot to be moved. In how many ways hast thou shown us thine excellent glory, and made us the recipients of thy manifold riches.

Many of our fellow-creatures are the subjects of trouble *and sorrow,* many of pain and anguish, many of want and

misery. But we, O Lord, by thy mercy, are permitted freedom from distress and necessity. This night we meet around thy throne to express our thankfulness and seek the continuance of thy special and daily favours.

Grant us all now, grace to give more earnest heed to the things that pertain unto salvation. How easily are thoughts of eternity and divine realities overborne by earthly cares, duties, and pleasures, so that they lose much of their vast importance in our sight, and become to us only as a tale that is told! Enable us to prize above life the precious and eternal redemption wrought out for us by Jesus Christ. Since he has stooped so low for our salvation, may it never seem hard to us to deny ourselves, and sacrifice our all for him. May we be among the many sons whom he wilt bring unto glory through his abounding grace and mysterious sufferings.

Thanks be unto thee, O Lord, that thou hast delivered men from the fear of death, by which they were all their lifetime subject to bondage, and hast led those that trust in thee into the blessed hope of life everlasting. We pray to be possessors of this hope. May we have grace to attain unto it through believing with the heart in our Lord Jesus Christ. Every day may we approach nearer to the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

We ask thee, O our God, to forgive us all the transgressions we have committed against thee this day. May we be cleansed from our guilty stains in the fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness.

We bless thee for a faithful and merciful High Priest, who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, since he has borne our nature, and in that nature has suffered, being tempted. Let us be enabled to flee unto him for succour in our every time of need, and lay our sins upon him, trusting in his all-sufficient merit for the remission of our iniquities.

We thank thee, O God, for the divine support we have

received under the duties, cares, and trials of this day. If the children before thee have found divine help under the temptations and difficulties peculiar to their age and circumstances, thou art to be praised. Ever be thou their almighty strength and shield. Ever watch them with a father's pitying eye, to preserve them in all their ways. Lord, in coming time be thou their guardian and their guide. We know not into what labyrinths of temptation they may be led, or to what difficult duties they may be called as time bears them onward, but, O Lord, they need fear no evil, if thou art with them. If thou wilt be their good Shepherd, they shall not want, and if *then* they wander, thou wilt restore them, and lead them in paths of righteousness for thy name's sake.

*Bless thou thy servant at the head of this household. Though absent from us he is present to thine all comprehending view. Thou art the God of his life, the supporter of his being, the divine source of all his supplies. Keep him under the many temptations and beguilements of life, from forfeiting thy favour and friendship, and make him sufficient for the claims of duty and the obligations of earthly association.*

Lord, remember thy Church amidst all the opposing influences and depressing circumstances that tend to hinder her power in the world. Awaken thy people to a sense of their responsibility as the representatives of thy truth, and the living exemplifications of thy holy doctrine. May the gospel of thy grace have free course, and run and be glorified, and all men be blessed by the power of the love of Christ.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to *whom be glory* for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PROVERBS, CHAP. I., VER. 1—33.

### HYMN.

Oh! walk with Jesus, would'st thou know
How deep, how wide his love can flow?
They only fail his love to prove
Who in the ways of sinners rove.

Walk thou with him, that way is light;
All other pathways end in night.
Walk thou with him, that way is rest,
All other pathways are unblest.

Oh! walk with Jesus, to thy view
He will make all things sweet and new,
Will bring new fragrance from each flower,
And hallow every passing hour.

Jesus, a great desire have we
To walk life's troubled path with thee;
Come to us now, in converse stay,
And oh! walk with us day by day.

### PRAYER.

Infinitely wise and infinitely gracious God, thou art high and highly exalted above all human and angelic comprehension. We bow ourselves in humble adoration before thee, regarding thy power and thy glory with deepest awe and reverence.

Thy nature is not only boundlessly great, but perfectly holy, therefore it becomes us to approach thee with a due sense of the infinite disparity there is between thee and us. Lord, we are fallen creatures, altogether defiled by sin. We are but as dust and ashes in thy sight, our lives are

but nothing before thee. Whatever we do to please thee, we acknowledge to be tainted by the defilement of our unworthy nature.

We beseech thee visit us with thy divine compassion, O thou merciful and gracious God. Help us in our poverty and degradation. Thou knowest how imperfect and weak we are, in all our attempts to combat the evil within and around us. We come far short of true holiness, and fall often into the snares that are laid for our feet. If thou, Lord, hold us not up by thine Almighty power, we shall make shipwreck of faith and of a good conscience.

We thank thee, at this time, for the wise counsels and gracious invitations of thy holy word. May we all follow the leadings of heavenly wisdom. Especially do thou incline the hearts of the young to turn away their ear from the enticements of sinners. We beseech thee, let them hear the instruction of their father, and not forsake the law of their mother. Teach them, O Lord, the unsatisfactoriness of all worldly pleasures and pursuits, apart from thy favour and blessing, and that true happiness can only be found in the way of obedience to thy precepts, and submission of spirit to thy will. May they hide thy word in their heart, that they may not sin against thee. Oh! preserve them from the soul-destroying folly of despising reproof, and setting at nought divine counsel.

O thou most gracious and merciful God, we look to thee in the light of another day for grace to sustain us through all the duties and engagements which devolve upon us. Thou hast in various ways and degrees given to all their appointed work in the world, and we pray that "whatever our hands may find to do, we may do it with all our might." Help us to feel the true dignity of life as connected with an hereafter of eternal duration, and may we endeavour to make it worthy of its great origin and destined end. We pray thee, impart to each of us a deep concern to act ever *as under thy* searching inspection, and may we never forget

the account to which we shall be called when this probationary state is over. Oh! make us careful to redeem our time from useless, and vain, and sinful pursuits, that we may secure to ourselves a treasury of good that shall be a rich harvest to us in the great future of our being.

It becomes us not to restrict our petitions to ourselves. We would remember before thee our beloved relatives and friends. Be thou very gracious to each of them. Under whatever difficulties they may be struggling, and with whatever afflictions they are cast down, Oh! be thou with them, and that to support and cheer them. Let all who are in any trouble turn to thee. Comfort those that mourn with thy strong consolations. Lay underneath them thine everlasting arms.

*Be with the dear father of this family to-day. Guide him in every perplexity. Strengthen him in every toil and labour, and enable him to cast his every care upon the Lord who careth for him.*

Remember, O God, thy great cause in the earth. Help thou all who are striving to promote the honour of thy truth and thy name in the world. Soon let it be manifest, we pray thee, that thou art taking to thyself thy great power, and wilt reign in the hearts of men. We long to see an end put to all sin and wickedness, to all those errors and delusions which lead men to believe a lie. O Lord, consume them with the spirit of thy mouth, and destroy them with the brightness of thy coming. Accept now our feeble attempts to pray and praise thee. Deign to be with us throughout this day. Meet us in the evening with a blessing, and we will render glory, honour, and praise to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 CORINTHIANS, CHAP. XIII., AND PSALM CXIX., VER. 1—8.

### HYMN.

Lord, behold us few and weak,
Humbly at thy feet we fall;
See, we come thy face to seek,
Deign, oh! deign to hear our call.

Jesus, thou didst shed thy blood,
On this rock our hope we raise;
Thou hast brought us nigh to God,
Thine the work and thine the praise.

'Tis thy will that we should be
Separate from all around;
Let our will with thine agree,
Let thy people thus be found.

Teach us, Lord, to walk with thee,
Teach us to adorn thy cause,
Let us live in unity,
Hating pride and self-applause.

Let us bear each other's load,
Faithful to each other prove,
Till we gain the saints' abode,
Till we take our place above.

### PRAYER.

O thou all-seeing, heart-searching God, with what humility and prostration of spirit should we approach thee under a consciousness that thou knowest us altogether, that there is not a thought in our heart, nor a word on our lips, which thou dost not understand and trace back to its root and spring in our sinful nature.

*Let us now* be able to look within upon the dark and

complex workings of our own spirits, and enable us to discover the secret motives of our actions. Throw the light of thy truth upon our conscience, and may we see ourselves as we appear in thy sight, that being duly sensible of our hopeless depravity, we may be filled with self-abasement and godly sorrow, crying out in all sincerity, "God be merciful to us sinners."

O Lord, we are shapen in iniquity and born in sin. In us, apart from thy sanctifying grace, there is no good thing. We beseech thee impart to us all that renewing, soul-cleansing influence, by which we shall be created unto holiness and true righteousness. In vain do we profess to have thy spirit, if in our lives we manifest none of the excellences of the holy. Unpossessed of the true adoption, it is worse than useless to cry, "Abba, Father." Thou Holy Spirit, teach us by thine inspiration what that love is which thy word pronounces the essence of all practical godliness. Send thy divine power into our hearts, to work in us this heavenly disposition, so in harmony with the mind and will of the blessed God.

May we never be satisfied with the external performance of Christian duty, but do thou lead us to cultivate with all diligence the inner growth of goodness in the soul, and the subjection of our entire being to the principles of thy holy religion. We thank thee, our gracious Lord and Saviour, for the exemplification of true love and charity which thy divine life on earth affords us. Thy self-devotion and untiring zeal for the good of men, even thy foes, teaches us the purest, most godlike lessons of heavenly benevolence. O our dear Redeemer, how far short do we fall of likeness to thee! In how many ways, and how often do we seek our own gratification irrespective of thee? How much is self uppermost in all our motives and aims, and how unwilling are we often to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow thee! Oh! impart to us a long-suffering tenderness, an enlarged charity, an ever-ready compassion.

We pray thee, forgive all our shortcomings in this respect, all our impatience and unforgivingness, our want of forbearance towards the imperfections and frailties of those by whom we are surrounded, and our unseemly selfishness. We would reflect thy matchless beauty, O thou divine and perfect Jesus, upon the dark and sinful world of men. Give us, therefore, we pray thee, a more godlike disposition and temper, a more divine lovingness, and endow us plentifully with all the gifts and graces of thy Holy Spirit.

Regard with fatherly love, O God, all our dear children. Lead them to cultivate the mind that was in Christ Jesus. May they never be satisfied with a mere pretence of godliness—the sounding brass of self-righteousness, or the tinkling cymbal of vain profession, but give them that which can bear the scrutiny of thy piercing gaze—the piety that has its root in the soul. Make them "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Let all whom we love, O our God, be the constant objects of *thy* love and mercy. Spread around them this night the arms of thy care and power.

*Make thy dear absent servant happy in a continual sense of thy blessing, and enable him to trust all his concerns to thee.*

Hear us when we pray for thy Zion. Let the time to favour her come. Hasten the downfall of all that raises itself up in opposition to thy righteous cause, and do thou reign, O Christ, from one end of the world unto the other. We now look up for thy blessing, and beseech thee to hear and answer our petitions, and ascribe to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, all glory and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—MARK, CHAP. VIII., VER. 1—38.

### HYMN.

Providence, profusely kind,
  Whereso'er you turn your eyes,
Bids you, with a grateful mind,
  View a thousand blessings rise.

Thankful own what you enjoy;
  But a changeful world like this,
Where a thousand fears annoy,
  Cannot give you perfect bliss.

Perfect bliss resides above,
  Far above yon azure sky;
Bliss that merits all your love,
  Merits every anxious sigh.

When your bosom breathes a sigh,
  Or your eye emits a tear,
Let your wishes rise on high,
  Ardent rise to bliss sincere.

### PRAYER.

O thou Creator and Preserver of all mankind, the God in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways. Thou art the fountain of life, and callest all beings into existence by thy sovereign will and word.

We depend upon thee for the supply of our every want, and rejoice to believe that thy goodness and love are equal to thy power and might. Thou hast spread out proofs of thy goodness all around us, so that we cannot overlook the bountifulness of thy bestowals, nor the riches of thy grace, nor be indifferent to the varied workings of thy kindness and thy care. Thy hand supplies our daily bread, and it is by thy

watchful providence we are sustained in life, and preserved from every kind of danger. Let us never suffer our hearts to become hard and unalive to thy great favours, but awaken a spring of gratitude in all our souls, that shall keep us ever sensible to thy distinguishing goodness. May all that is within us bless thy holy name, and may we not forget thy benefits.

O God, how much we ought to praise and adore thee for the testimony thy word bears to the grace and power of Jesus, our divine Redeemer, that he went about doing good; that his whole life was a consecration to benevolence and love, and pity, and salvation. Give us grace we pray thee, to follow so holy and sublime an example, and may we be able to devote our lives to the glory of God and the good of men.

We desire, thou blessed Jesus, to know more of thee, to obtain a more full and entire view of thy glorious character. Teach us who thou art, and make us know the meaning of thy gracious name. May we be desirous not only to follow thee in outward profession, but be willing to make the sacrifice of our own will and our own way. In mercy give us spiritual energy for such a task, which is too hard for our unaided nature. O come, Lord, and help us by thy might. Help us to-day. May we begin to copy thee to-day; and be thou very near to succour our souls in their weakness and failure. Lord, we know thou art not far from any one of us, for it is in thee we live and move, and have our being, but we need to feel thy presence, and to possess a consciousness of thine upholding grace. None but thine arm can foil the tempter's power. No voice but thine can cheer and animate us as we struggle through the difficulties that arise in our way. While we pass along the chequered path of life, let us often feel the drawings of thy love, and catch glimpses of unseen eternal realities, that we may be deeply impressed with the vast importance *of the life* that ever lives.

Most gracious God, some before thee are only at the beginning of their present life. They know nothing of its storms and perils, nothing of its requirements and difficulties, nothing of its snares and temptations. Oh! how uncertain to our view is the track through which they may tread! How little we know of the troubles or the joys that may darken or cheer their journey through time! But to thine all-seeing eye, the future of every one of us is clearly known. Thou seest the end from the beginning, and canst comprehend within thy glance, all time and all eternity. Oh! make coming years to us all fruitful of good. We ask not great things in this world, but we do pray that the best, and most spiritual things may be bestowed upon us. Through all the intricate paths of duty, and the perilous ways of temptation, be thou our children's Guide, and merciful Protector. Oh! let them never lose themselves amidst the mazes of error and false doctrine, or be led to dishonour thee, by complicity with any wickedness. Guard them from all dangers, and ever make them happy in thy Fatherly blessing. And when they and we shall be gathered into the arms of death and the grave, Oh! may a home and a rest await us in thy kingdom of glory above.

Almighty and merciful God, regard with favour those who serve in this family. May they learn to value thy holy word, and to trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Amid their various occupations may they often reflect upon the life to come, and seek a portion in the inheritance of the saints in light. Hear us, we pray thee, O our Father, in these our morning supplications. Accept our thanksgivings for all thy goodness and mercy, and help us to render unto thee, through our divine Mediator, all glory and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## THURSDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—EPHESIANS, CHAP. IV., VER. 1—32.

### HYMN.

Happy man, who trusts in Jesus,
Therefore has he peace within;
While dismay on others seizes,
Lo! he wears a smile serene.
Every sound is full of terror,
With a conscience ill at ease,
For we know the path of error,
Cannot be the path of peace.

Nothing now can greatly move him,
For the Lord upholds his steps;
Trials may be sent to prove him,
But the Lord his servant keeps.
Though he lives on earth a stranger,
Pressed by many foes and fears,
God will keep him here from danger,
And at length dry all his tears.

### PRAYER.

O thou incomprehensibly great and glorious God, who only hast immortality. Thou art from everlasting to everlasting. We know but little of thy ways, and none can find thee out unto perfection, for "verily thou art a God that hidest thyself." Yet hast thou been pleased to make a revelation of thy glorious character, sufficient for man's present capacity, and hast promised a fuller manifestation of thyself to the many sons whom thou wilt bring unto glory.

We acknowledge before thee, O God, our sense of unpreparedness for the disclosures of thine eternal majesty. We could not look upon thy face and live, if thou shouldst *unveil* before our weak and trembling nature all thy burn-

ing glories. We are not worthy to come unto thee, nor to take thy holy name upon our polluted lips, for sin has tainted our entire being.

Thou hast called us unto holiness, but we walk in the way of evil. Thou dost require of us perfect obedience, and conformity to thy will in all things, but we strive to please ourselves, and follow our own gratification. What is there, O God, in all our life and character, that is well-pleasing in thy sight, and is not spoiled by any earthly or selfish motive? Our knowledge of thy word leads us to see what we should be, and what we must be if we would attain unto the prize of eternal life.

Teach our souls the way of thy statutes, and "we shall keep it unto the end." In our helplessness, we turn to the strong for strength, and in our folly and proneness to err, we look to thee, our God, for wisdom and grace. Impart to us the disposition of thy children, that we may in all respects be worthy of thy name, and thy condescending regard.

Thou hast appointed all necessary means and helps for us in our spiritual progress, and our advantages, O Lord, are many and great. May we ever find our delight in the cultivation of spiritual affections, the knowledge of thyself, and in holy living, to thy glory and praise.

Let not our dear children be alienated from the life of God; never thrust thy commandments behind their back, that they may pursue, unhindered, the course of their own will, but may the beauty of true holiness attract them, and the dignity of thy service influence them to adopt the way of thy precepts.

Blessed be thy name, O God, for what thou hast done for us as a family; for the countless mercies we receive; and for the special bestowals of thine hand. We beseech thee, let not any of these pass by unrecorded, and let us never allow the growth of selfishness and ingratitude to harden our hearts, and blind our eyes to our many obliga-

tions. Help us to praise and bless the Lord at all times, whether they be times of gladness or of distress. May we be able to read the intentions of thy various dealings with us. If thou shouldst give us plenty, may no oversight of thine interposition cause us to indulge a spirit of boasting, or to take to ourselves the glory of our success. May our hearts never grow proud or selfish, or unmindful of the less fortunate of our fellow-creatures, under worldly prosperity; but, O Lord, make us heavenly-minded, superior to all the temporal advantages we may enjoy. Grant, we pray thee, that if adversity should be our appointed lot here, we may not suffer the cares of this life to obscure our hope of a state, in which we shall not need any earthly good things, but shall rest from all anxiety and distress, and enjoy the peace and bliss that are the portion of thy saints in everlasting glory.

It becomes us, O our Father, to acknowledge at this time, thy great goodness to us through the past day. Another witness has been borne to thy faithfulness, love, and power. We "sought the Lord, and He heard us, and delivered us from all our fears." May we take encouragement from this new experience, and look up at all times to thee with confidence, as our covenant-keeping God.

We commend to thy gracious care our dear relatives and friends everywhere. Be thou very attentive to their cry, O Lord, and very bountiful in the supply of all their needs. *Meet thy servant, whom we so much love, with a blessing this night. Keep him from excessive care and anxiety. May he taste and see that the Lord is gracious, and that those are blessed that trust in him.* Now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JAMES, CHAP. I., VER. 1—27.

### HYMN.

Boundless glory, Lord, be thine!
Thou hast made the darkness shine:
Thou hast sent a cheering ray;
Thou hast turned our night to day.

Hither is the gospel come;
'Tis the power of God to some;
Oh! let such in praise unite,
To the Lord that gives them light.

*They* are bless'd, and none beside,
They who in the truth abide;
Clear the light that marks their way,
Leading to eternal day.

Ye who walk this heavenly road,
Hasting to the saints' abode,
See how bright it shines above,
There appears the God of love.

Soon your stronger sight will bear,
To behold that glory near;
Light that *now* would but destroy,
*Then* will yield sublimest joy.

### PRAYER.

Oh! thou who art enthroned in glory above the heavens, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; thou art the Great Eternal, Triune Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the only true object of all human and angelic adoration and worship. How vast, and overpowering to our feeble comprehension is thy greatness, and how august thy majesty and glory!

We venture near thy throne of grace, only in the name

of Jesus, thine own beloved Son, and magnify thee at this time, as the infinite Source of all happiness, the boundless Dispenser of all good. How profound the wisdom, and how unspeakable the riches of thy mercy and beneficence, that meets in such marvellous variety all the necessities of mankind! Thou hast provided in every respect for the maintenance of our life and strength. It is by thine appointment that sleep and repose are made to contribute to our refreshment, and to our daily ability to arise and pursue the different occupations to which thy providence has called us.

We bless thee for thus fitting us for all the work of life. Make us sensible, we entreat thee, of our entire dependence upon thee. How easily couldst thou take away as well as give. O our Father, be pleased to remember us in mercy. Take not thy loving kindness from us. Apart from thy blessing and unceasing care we could not live before thee.

Thou hast promised to withhold from us no good thing. Oh! help us to ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth shall not receive anything of the Lord. Impart to us, we beseech thee, a strong and dauntless faith, to trust thy word and rely upon thy promises. In answer to our prayer of faith, O God, give us strength and heavenly wisdom this day, that we may endure temptation, and when we are tried, may we come forth as gold, and receive the crown of life that fadeth not away.

Show us, we pray thee, more and more, the danger we are all in of trusting to our own evil hearts, and leaning on our own strength, which we have so often proved to be perfect weakness. Help us to place entire reliance on thee, for thou only canst enable us to overcome, in all our conflicts with the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

We thank thee, Lord, for all the gracious counsels and holy precepts of thy blessed word. May we make that word the man of our counsels and the guide of our steps, *and do* thou sanctify us by thy truth.

This day, O thou loving Saviour, be present with us through the various duties and engagements that may demand our attention. Preserve us upright and sincere. Let no hypocrisy nor deceit dwell in us. Give even to the youngest of us a tender conscience; and may we bear in mind throughout this day that thine all-seeing eye holds us in full survey, that thine all-knowing mind takes record of our every action and motive, and that, when our days on earth shall be ended, we must meet the scrutiny of thy penetrating judgment. Oh! make us watchful, and prayerful, and very humble, that we may not by self-confidence betray our souls into any foolish or hurtful snare, or lose thy favour by the indulgence of any known sin.

*We look to thee this morning, our merciful God, to seek a blessing on him who is absent from us. Be thou very gracious to him. He needs thy special help and influence to support and keep him amidst his various cares and responsibilities. Let him be able to commit his way unto the Lord, and put his trust and confidence in thee.*

Bless thou those that serve in this house. Every day keep them from forgetting the God of all their mercies.

We earnestly pray that the glorious gospel of the blessed God may be the restorer of all men to peace and happiness. Oh! raise up the fallen, and help all who are seeking after thee. May the day soon come when thy will shall be done on earth, even as it is done in heaven. Grant that the company of those that preach thy gospel may be great, and may the spread of thy truth in the world be rapid. May our blessed Redeemer soon see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied. Now, Lord, we leave ourselves, and all our interests for time and eternity, to thy care and mercy. Supply our needs, and keep us in thy fear and favour all the day long, and we will ascribe to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, glory, honour, and praise for ever. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## FRIDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ISAIAH, CHAP. LXV., VER. 1—25.

### HYMN.

Almighty Father of mankind,
On thee my hopes remain;
And when the day of trouble comes,
I shall not trust in vain.

I know the power in which I trust,
The arm on which I lean;
He will my Saviour ever be,
Who has my Saviour been.

My God, who causest me to hope,
When life began to beat,
And when a stranger in the world,
Didst guide my wandering feet.

Thou wilt not cast me off when age,
And evil days descend;
Thou wilt not leave me in despair,
To mourn my latter end.

Therefore in life I'll trust in thee,
In death I will adore;
And after death will sing thy praise,
When time shall be no more.

### PRAYER.

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Thou hast appointed a throne of grace whither the needy in all ages may repair to tell thee their many wants, and utter before thee their many desires. Thou art acquainted with the deep necessities of our fallen nature, both body and soul. It is as dependent creatures we now draw near and rejoice to know that we approach a God of infinite resources, the boundless wealth of whose divine nature is ever ready to be employed for our good.

Thou art at all times more disposed to help us than we are to seek thine aid. Thou hast often been "found of *them* that sought thee not," and hast said "behold me, *me*, to a nation that was not called by thy name."

How frequently by our perverseness in following the way that was not good, have we provoked thee to anger, and incurred thy just displeasure. Too often have we made gods to ourselves of the follies and vanities of this present world and the objects of sense by which we are surrounded, and have sacrificed to them our time and our affections, whilst thou hast been forgotten and thy ways forsaken. Lord, have mercy upon us. Pardon the waywardness of our hearts. Cut us not off in thy wrath, but visit us with thy salvation.

Let the blessed promises of grace which thou hast spoken encourage us to believe that thou wilt make us a rejoicing, and wilt create all things new in our experience. Thy power can elevate the fallen, and thy sanctifying influence can renew the depraved. We therefore trust in thee to accomplish in our souls all thy kind designs of mercy and redemption.

Lord, let the mighty power of thy saving strength be felt through all ranks and conditions of men. How low are many sunk in iniquity! and how far have many wandered from the truth of thine own revelation! Darkness still hangs upon the soul of thousands, who are led captive by the Devil at his will. Do thou, O Holy Spirit of the living God, arise and put forth thine Almighty power to save all such from the destruction to which they are hastening, from the hopeless despair that will overtake them. Put an end, we beseech thee, to the inroads of superstition and false doctrine, and help men to shake themselves from the trammels of human invention, coming unto the Father in all simplicity and godly sincerity, by the new and living way which he has opened up, even through Jesus Christ alone, who is the Mediator of the new covenant.

We have reason to adore and bless thee, O Lord, if we have learnt the knowledge of thy pure gospel and have been led to accept salvation through repentance and faith. We are not left to grope our way through a weary labyrinth

of meritorious performances, but do thou enable us to walk ever in the way of thine own appointing, and rejoice in the liberty wherewith thou dost make thy people free.

We would this night draw near to thee with humble praise for all thine unmerited goodness and love to us through the past day. Thou hast crowned our life with thy favour, and followed us every moment with thy care and watchful providence. Oh! may we ever cherish a living sense of gratitude, and make it our supreme delight to honour and serve thee.

Regard with fatherly love and compassion our dear children. Help them to repent of all that has been displeasing to thee in their conduct this day. Let them never retain upon their conscience the guilt of any sin, but repair with a broken and contrite heart to the gracious Saviour, who invites them to come unto him for pardon and rest. We ask thee to strengthen them every day against all the various forms of evil to which they are exposed, and the sinful tendencies of their own nature. Oh! keep them ever under thy watchful care, and lead them gently into paths of peace and salvation.

*Look down upon their absent parent. Be thou his God for ever and ever, and his guide even unto death. May he recollect thy faithfulness and love, and put all his trust in thee.*

And bless, we pray thee, those who serve here. May they learn how to obey us, with all good fidelity, in obedience to thee; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

We now commit ourselves, body and soul, to thy powerful protection through the silent watches of the night. Do thou, Lord, suffer no harm to approach our abode, but permit us to arise in the morning in health, and peace, and happiness. Now the God of peace himself give us peace always, by all means; and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all evermore. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALMS XI. AND XII.

### HYMN.

Glory, glory everlasting,
Be to him who bore the cross!
Who redeemed our souls, by tasting
Death,—the death deserved by us.
Spread his glory,
Who redeemed his people thus.

His is love,—'tis love unbounded,
Without measure, without end;
Human thought is here confounded,
'Tis too vast to comprehend,
Praise the Saviour,
Magnify the sinner's Friend.

While we hear the wondrous story
Of the Saviour's cross and shame,
Sing we "everlasting glory
Be to God, and to the Lamb!"
Saints and angels,
Give ye glory to his name.

### PRAYER.

We adore and bless thee, O God, our God, and would come before thy presence with thanksgiving. At all times "praise is comely for the upright," and "whoso offereth praise glorifieth thee."

Thou art our fathers' God, and we are encouraged to trust upon thy name, knowing that in all ages, thou hast been thy people's dwelling-place,—the great Author and Giver of every good and perfect gift. Thanks be unto thee, O thou God of mercy and salvation, for the glorious things promised in thy word; for the peaceful reign of the

blessed Jesus, and for the assurance that throughout the length and breadth of this fallen world, the soul-quickening knowledge of the Lord shall ultimately spread.

O Lord, whilst thou art on every hand making manifest to men thy glory, and whilst many are pressing into the kingdom of God, let not any of us be left at a distance, unblessed by thy salvation. Pour out thine influence upon us, and sweetly constrain us by thy love and grace, to yield ourselves unto thee.

May the peace of God that passeth all understanding, take possession of our soul, and may we not only dwell together as a family in harmony, but be at one with God. Grant, we beseech thee, that our path may be as a shining light. Let us know the joys of salvation, and may the heavenly calm of conscious forgiveness and acceptance with thee, dwell in our spirits, enabling us to smile at all storms, and making us superior to all that would interrupt our happiness and satisfaction in thyself. How many causes of fear and dismay continually arise! and how often do we tremble as we anticipate the untrodden paths of life! But thy gracious voice speaks encouragement to us to-day, for the Lord Jehovah is our strength, and He also is become our glorious salvation.

We bless and adore thee for the revelation of the fact that now thine anger is turned away, and through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, thou comfortest us. In the cross of our gracious Redeemer we see thy wrath appeased, and mercy beaming forth upon our sinful race. We will therefore lay hold upon thy strength, that we may make peace with thee. Jesus is our peace. Oh! may he now speak peace to our souls, and assure us of thy love.

We have to thank thee this morning for the fatherly care and tender compassion with which thou hast watched over us through the hours of helplessness and dependence. Thou hast guarded our abode from all perils, and our

persons from disease and danger. In the light of this new morning, we are able to arise and bless thee. May we not forget through all this day, how much we owe unto our God. Let an ever-present sense of thy love and benign regard fill all our hearts with joy, and may we delight to serve and honour thee. Grant that the life that we live in the flesh may be a life bringing glory to our God and Saviour; and when this mortal existence shall have run its course, may we enter on the blessed immortality promised to all those who continue in well-doing.

Look down, O gracious Father, on the children of this family. Give to each of them a disposition to attend to the things that make for their everlasting peace. Let them never despise thine holy word, which is the charter of all their hopes and privileges, both here and hereafter. Oh! may they study it with a humble and teachable mind, and bow their understandings and wills before its divine authority and mystery. As they grow up into life may they all choose that good part, which can enrich them through all eternity.

*Bestow, we pray thee, the treasures of thy grace upon their dear parent now absent from us. O Lord, be his continual guard and guide, and let the light of thy reconciled countenance rest ever upon him.*

We beseech thee, hear the cry of all thy true people, that thy word may be universally known, that all men may behold thy glory, and trust in thy grace and mercy. Put an end to the reign of sin, and set up thy blessed dominion in every heart. Forgive all our sins, and accept us in Jesus Christ, our High Priest and Intercessor. AMEN.

# Third Week.

## SATURDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—LUKE, CHAP. XI., VER. 1—26.

### HYMN.

Above the heaven's created rounds
  Thy mercies, Lord, extend;
Thy truth outlives the narrow bounds
  Where time and nature end.

Thy hand sustains all living things,
  Thy providence how kind!
Beneath the shadow of thy wings
  Thy children safety find.

From thee, when earthly streams run low,
  And mortal comforts die,
Perpetual springs of life shall flow,
  And raise our pleasures high.

Though all created light decay,
  And death close up our eyes,
Thy presence makes eternal day,
  Where clouds can never rise.

### PRAYER.

A glorious high throne from the beginning has been the place of thy people's refuge, O Lord our God, and to that throne of grace and mercy we would draw near at the close of this day, bringing with us our burden of sins, and wants, and perplexities.

To whom can we go but unto thee, our heavenly Father, when overwhelmed and distressed, or worn with care and anxiety. Thou art the divine Comforter, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Make us happy in coming to thee, by the assurance that all thy greatness and goodness are put forth for our benefit, and to relieve our sorrows and troubles.

When we review our past life, and even the past day, how much we see to cast a gloom upon our spirit and open the door to despair and dismay. We have yielded ourselves so much to the prevalence of sinful, selfish desires, to ungodly motives and evil tempers. We have forgotten thy claims upon our love, notwithstanding they are so great; and have overlooked the multitude of thy mercies towards us, although they have been so many. "Other lords beside thee have had dominion over us," and we have given our love and ardour to the pursuit of earthly objects, forgetful of our highest good. Visit us not, we beseech thee, as we have deserved, but be pleased to cancel all our guilt, and impart thy grace and spirit, by which alone we shall be able to change our course, and walk henceforth in the way of holy obedience and loving service to thyself.

We entreat thee, O Lord, teach us the secret of true prayer, the power that can prevail with God to draw down abundant blessings on ourselves and others. May we ever take delight in coming unto thee, and pleading thine own promises, looking up for the fulfilment of all that thou hast spoken. How ready and able art thou to bless, and bestow upon us all the vast treasures of thy love and mercy. Yet we are slow of heart to believe that thy care and pity extend to all our mean affairs, and to the every day necessities of our life. Thou hast said, "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." "Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find." Inspire us, O God, with enlarged desires, and a more earnest sense of need, that we may avail ourselves of our great privilege in being permitted to draw upon thine infinite resources, and call thee and all thou art our portion.

We delight to believe that "verily thou art our Father, and dost regard us with a father's tender sympathy, and wilt much more readily than our earthly parents, bestow thy better gifts. In thy great mercy look down upon all

now bowing before thee. Especially let thine eye of favour rest upon the young. Oh! visit them with thy salvation. Teach them the value of a throne of grace, and of the great and precious promises they may take with them there to plead. In every circumstance and situation of life may they make thee their confidence, and tell thee all the secret troubles of their heart, all their wants, all their fears. Thou wilt not turn away thine ear from the voice of their cry, when thou shalt hear it, thou wilt answer them. May they never trust in an arm of flesh, nor lean to their own understanding, but make the God of Jacob their refuge, and roll their burden upon the Lord.

Be pleased, O our God, to bless us to-night with an evening blessing. We are about to lay us down to sleep, committing ourselves entirely to thy guardian care, and almighty protection. Come and watch around our bed. Be very near to shield us from every peril. The frequent recurrence of day and night reminds us that time is flying, oh, so fast away! The darkness of death will soon envelope us; the silence of the tomb will soon overtake us. Grant we pray thee, Lord, that we may every day be getting ready to "put off this our tabernacle, and to be clothed upon with our house that is from heaven."

Between the past and the coming we now stand, and cast ourselves upon thy mercy, imploring pardon for the past and grace for days to come.

Regard thine handmaid before thee with tender love and mercy. Oh! help her amidst her anxieties and cares to bear up, leaning on thy mighty strength, and confiding in thine unfailing word. We beseech thee give ear to our supplications which go not out of feigned lips, and accept us and all our worship, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## SUNDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—EXODUS, CHAP. XVI., VER. 1—30.

### HYMN.

Ev'ry thought should be directed,
  Heavenward thro' this hallow'd day;
Worldly themes should be rejected,
  Themes that draw the soul away.
'Tis the day of sacred rest,
  'Tis the day the Lord has blest.

Oh! what glorious themes invite us.
  When we look on mercy's plan;
These are themes may well delight us,
  Themes of joy to guilty man.
Full of sweetness, full of grace,
Suited to the sinner's case.

Why should we grow weary thinking,
  Of the Saviour's grace and love?
From these springs his people drinking,
  Get a taste of joys above.
Oh! 'tis good the Lord to know;
  'Tis our heaven begun below.

### PRAYER.

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand." Worship and adoration are thy due, and thine alone, O thou King of saints; and we delight to honour thee, by prostrating ourselves before thee in acts of solemn homage. May we never mock thee, the most high God, by assuming the posture and uttering the sound of prayer, while our hearts are far from thee. Thou wilt not deign to accept a

formal sacrifice, unaccompanied with a broken and a contrite spirit, and consecration to thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This day thou dost call us once more to separation from the pleasures and business of life, and all that has engaged us through the past week, and sayest unto us, by thy word, and thy recurring ordinances, "Come up hither," "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Let a sacred sense of thy searching presence command back all intruding cares, all vain and worldly associations, all sinful and selfish thoughts, and may we this day taste angels' food.

Condescend, O Lord, to meet us in the place of thine own appointing, there to unveil to us thy smiling face. Let the revelation thou hast made of thyself in the person of Jesus Christ, our Immanuel, inspire us with admiration and love, and hope in thy mercy. May we see thee in him well pleased, and propitious unto us. Dispel, we beseech thee, all darkness and ignorance, and give us clear views of the glory of our God and Saviour, that while we see, as in a glass, the majesty of his beauty, "we may be changed into the same image, as by the spirit of the Lord."

Thou, O God, hast given the bread of heaven for the nourishment of our souls. As thou didst rain manna in great abundance on thine ancient Israel in the wilderness, so hast thou freely given to us of thy mercy and favour, and we may at all times come and receive out of thy fullness grace for grace.

Help us, we beseech thee, to honour thine holy day, by withholding our hand from all our usual avocations, and refraining from the pursuit of our own pleasure. Since thou hast commanded us to remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy, and to separate it from all other days in its duties and occupations, Oh! may it be our joy to do thy will. May we call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, *honourable;* and may it be no hardship to us to sanctify

this day unto thee. We thank thee for one day in seven in which we may gather spiritual manna and refreshing for the week. Grant that we may never be guilty of the awful sin of desecrating thy day by worldly pleasures and amusements, but may we recollect the judgments that have fallen on those who have so set at nought thy command.

Bless those of us, O Lord, who are young. In mercy reveal thyself to them, and let them early acquire a taste for the ways of true piety and thy service. Save all our dear children from the error of the wicked; from supposing they can be happy and safe apart from thy favour, and reconciliation to thee through Jesus Christ. May each member of this family be a member of thy great family of the sons of God, and heirs of the heavenly inheritance.

Mercifully appear for all our dear relatives and friends. This day may they possess much peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Bless thou, O Lord, our servants. Enlighten their minds, and teach them the knowledge of thyself and their obligations to thee. Help them to see the day of their merciful visitation, and seek thee whilst thou art to be found.

Lord, let the sound of thy truth go out into all lands, and its light unto the ends of the earth. We praise thee for what has been done already by human instrumentality, for the recovery of men from ignorance and corruption; but many souls are still "plunged in the gulf of dark despair." O God, advance thy cause this day, and may great accessions be made to the kingdom of thy dear Son. We long for the time when our God shall be the God of all mankind, and when he that blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth. Be pleased, O our Father, to hear and bless us this day. Prepare our hearts for thy worship, and meet us in thy sanctuary. May this be a happy and profitable Sabbath to us all. We ask this and every mercy, in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## SUNDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—LUKE, CHAP. XV., VER. 1—32.

### HYMN.

Lord, I hear of showers of blessings
Thou art scattering full and free;
Showers the thirsty land refreshing,
Let some droppings fall on me,—
Even me.

Pass me not, O gracious Saviour,
Let me live and cling to thee;
Fain I'm longing for thy favour,
Whilst thou'rt calling, call on me,—
Even me,

Love of God, so pure and changeless;
Blood of Christ, so rich and free;
Grace of God, so rich and boundless,
Magnify it all in me,—
Even me.

Pass me not, thy lost one bringing;
Bind my heart, O Lord, to thee;
Whilst the streams of life are springing,
Blessing others, O bless me,—
Even me.

### PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

Look down upon us, we pray thee, at the close of this holy day. We have been permitted again to join the assemblies of thy people, and to go up into the courts of the Lord's house. Thy word that we have heard will judge us at the last day. How solemn the responsibility of those who sit under the sound of the gospel, and enjoy the privileges of thy chosen! May we never lightly esteem our advan-

tages, nor provoke thee to remove our candlestick out of its place.

Inspire within us, we entreat thee, the resolution to arise and go to our Father with a penitent, broken heart, to relinquish our sinful ways, renounce all pride and self-sufficiency, committing ourselves, by thy grace, to a life of true holiness and conformity to thy will.

We thank thee for the goodly heritage we enjoy. We can sit under our own vine and fig tree, none daring to make us afraid. Not only have we thy written word, but thy preached gospel. Our eyes behold our teachers, those who can open to us the Scriptures, and aid our efforts to understand the mysteries of godliness. Many who have similar advantages have no care to improve them. If thou hast made us to differ, how great is our obligation! and how humbly should we ascribe all the glory to thyself! "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name do we give thanks."

How evanescent are our experiences of religious impressions!—how transient our emotions, and the outgoings of our soul towards thee! Even as the morning cloud and the early dew, they pass away and are lost amidst the busy cares, the pleasures and employments which crowd in upon our attention, and carry away captive our thoughts and affections.

O our Father, be pleased to quicken us, that we may not so sadly cleave to things below, and let go our hold on eternal realities. Make our devout feelings more durable, and may holy desires become the habit of our soul. We beseech thee, let no mere emotions satisfy us, without the fruits of holiness, in a life agreeable to the honour of thy word and the profession of thy name. Let the instructions we receive from Sabbath to Sabbath regulate our conduct in all the different relations of life, so that each in our sphere may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

We remember before thee, O merciful Lord, those who

have this day been deprived, by sickness or any other impediment, from attending on the public ordinances of thy house. May they receive some tokens of thy love, and an assurance that thou art not confined to temples made with hands, but in every place where men lift up to thee pure hands and a sincere heart in humble devotion, thine ear is open to hear, and thine arm mighty to bless and succour them.

Be thou pleased, O most gracious God, to look upon the family of thy servants before thee. Grant to them an understanding heart and a willing mind. If any good desire has been elicited by the proclamation of thy mercy and love to-day, do thou meet that desire with thy satisfying grace. Kindle the spark to a flame. Quench not the smoking flax. A touch of thy divine power can give life to the dead. A word of thy mouth can make darkness light. Oh for that touch to reach their hearts, dead to thee! Oh for that mighty word to send light into the darkness of their spirit! We can but talk of thy power; thou canst exert it. We can but tell of thy grace; thou canst impart it.

*We commend to thy fatherly blessing their dear absent parent. Draw near to his soul, O God, this night, and speak peace and comfort to him.*

May all our relatives and friends share in thy mercy and love. Let the aged and feeble among them especially, be the objects of thy tender sympathy and compassionate regard. May the peace of God come to them in the words of Jesus, and soothe the anxieties and fears of their soul; and, O Lord, as they become more and more sensible that flesh and heart are failing, do thou reveal thyself to them as the strength of their heart, and their portion for ever.

Hear us now, we beseech thee, most merciful God, and accept our worship through our divine Intercessor, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory everlasting. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## MONDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—EXODUS, CHAP. XIV., VER. 1—31.

### HYMN.

Saviour, through the desert lead us,
  Without thee we cannot go;
Thou from cruel bonds hast freed us,
  Thou hast laid the tyrant low;
    Let thy presence
  Cheer us all our journey through.

When we halt (no track discovering),
  Fearful lest we go astray,
O'er our path thy pillar hovering,
  Fire by night, and cloud by day,
    Shall direct us;
  Thus we shall not miss our way.

When our foes in arms assembling,
  Ready to obstruct our way,
Suddenly their hearts shall tremble,
  Thou wilt strike them with dismay;
    And thy people,
  Led by thee, shall win the day.

Then lead on, almighty Victor,
  Scatter every hostile band;
Be our guide and our protector
  Till on Canaan's shores we stand;
    Shouts of victory
  Then shall fill the promised land.

### PRAYER.

Thou God of Jacob, who hast been thy people's dwelling-place in all generations, and art still the sanctuary of those that put their trust in thee: Thou hast wrought redemption for thine Israel under all their perils, and showed unto them the power of thy works. We rejoice to know that thou art no respecter of persons, but art as willing to be our God and guide as thou wast the faithful and patient guide of thine ancient and rebellious people, through all their wanderings in the wilderness.

How often are we in perplexity, and know not the way we should take! Often have we conflicts without and fears within. The future seems dark and foreboding before us, and it is very tempestuous round about us; the storms of life press heavily upon our spirit, and the enemies of our soul seek our destruction. When this is our case, O Lord, may we have grace to stand still and see the salvation of God. Thou wilt interpose to frustrate all the machinations of the evil one, and thou wilt say to the fierce winds of trial and affliction, "Peace, be still."

We stand in awe, O God, of thy righteous judgments on those who have dared oppose the progress of thy chosen, and we admire thy merciful interpositions for all those who follow thy guiding hand, and place their entire confidence in thee. How easily canst thou destroy thine enemies, and utterly overthrow all those who lift up themselves against thee! Thy power is infinite, and thy righteousness is like the great mountains. Who is so great a God as our God?

Let us be led by the knowledge of thy dealings of old, to fear before thee, and to rest assured of thine ability to help us under the difficulties, the dangers, and the conflicts of life. Do thou, Lord, teach our hands to war and our fingers to fight. Make us skilful in the combat we have to maintain, putting on the whole armour of God, so that we may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Through the entire journey of life our path will be beset with foes, and often we may feel discouraged because of the mighty forces leagued against us, because of the feebleness of our spirit and the weakness of our faith. But may the strength of the Mighty One of Jacob be our resource, and the arm of the Lord fight for us and be our stay. Help us, with thy servant David, to resolve that "though a host should encamp against us, our heart shall not fear."

Be thou pleased, O our Father, to help us by thy grace

throughout this day. May we never forget that our enemy, like a roaring lion, continually goeth about, seeking whom he may devour. But by faith in Jesus we may quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Lord, increase our faith, that we may be "more than conquerors through him that hath loved us."

O God, thy great work in the world has *its* foes and hindrances. Many are they that rise up to overthrow the cause of truth and holiness. What mighty influences are brought forward to crush out purity and conscience from men's better nature! In how many ways do the powers of darkness insinuate evil into human souls! and how many are found willing to darken the world with clouds of error and delusion! If we did not know and believe that thou, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, we should stand aghast at the seductions and evil practices we see all around us. But we know that thy throne is in the heavens, that "thine eyes behold and thine eyelids try the children of men." Thou art not unobservant of all that is done upon earth, but art longsuffering, not in haste to execute judgment, not wishful that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

We look up to thee this morning to seek thy protection and blessing. May this not be a lost day to any of us. Give us grace to employ its hours in some way that shall conduce to thy glory and to our own advantage. Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity with desire and satisfaction, and may we choose and cultivate the best qualities of character. May this first day of another week's duty and care be holy to the Lord, and characterize all the rest; and when our days and weeks upon earth shall be ended, O God, may we dwell for ever with thee, and serve thee faultlessly before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, remain with each of us for ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## MONDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—ACTS, CHAP. XVII., VER. 1—34.

### HYMN.

Father and Friend! thy light, thy love,
  Beaming through all thy works we see;
Thy glory gilds the heavens above,
  And all the earth is full of thee.

Thy voice we hear, thy presence feel,
  Whilst thou, too pure for mortal sight,
Involved in clouds—invisible,
  Reignest the Lord of life and light.

We know not in what hallowed part
  Of the wide heavens thy throne may be;
But this we know, that where thou art,
  Strength, wisdom, goodness, dwell with thee.

Thy children shall not faint nor fear,
  Sustained by this delightful thought,—
Since thou their God art everywhere,
  They cannot be where thou art not.

### PRAYER.

O thou King of eternal glory, thou art clothed with majesty and strength, wherewith thou hast girded thyself. Thy throne is the perfection of all righteousness, and truth, and mercy. The heavens, O Lord, are thine. The earth also is thine, the world, and the fulness thereof. Thou art our God, and we will exalt thee; we will praise thy holy name for ever. Thou hast done wonderful things. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

We rejoice that thou, O great God, hast not hidden thyself altogether from thine intelligent creatures, but hast manifested thy perfections and thy glory unto the sons of men. We are not left to grope after thee, like the blind for the wall. Although we cannot find thee out unto perfection, yet art thou not to us an unknown God, and we need not worship thee in ignorance of thy name and character.

We behold thy divine wisdom and skill in all created life, in all the objects that surround us, in the many mysteries of nature, that must ever remain mysteries to our finite understandings. But thou hast condescended to unveil to us the majesty of thy great goodness in the revelation of thyself which thine inspired word contains.

In Immanuel, the brightness of thy glory, the express image of thy person, we behold the incarnation of thy perfections. If we know him, we know the Father also. O Lord Jesus, we beseech thee, show us thy glory, that we may become more fully acquainted with our God and Creator.

Give us eyes to see thy beauty, ears to hear thy divine wisdom, and hearts to receive the communications of thy grace and mercy. By nature we are blind to thine excellences, indifferent to thy claims upon our love and service, unheedful of thy calls, and will have none of thy counsels. We seek our own and not thy glory, as the chief end of our being. Oh! how much we need thy power to change our wills, and make us move toward God, and choose those things that are pleasing in his sight! It is only of God, which worketh in us to will and to do of his good pleasure, that we can work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Every day help us to throw off the dominion of sin, and submit to the reign of Jesus, as the only sovereign of our soul. May we be conformed to him in all things, to his expressed commands, to his perfect example, to his sublime self-sacrifice, his deadness to sin and all the fascinations of the world. May we be crucified with him, and live our life in the flesh by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us.

Almighty and gracious Father, some of us have especial need of thy help. The allurements of earthly pleasure take strong hold upon the young. They see not the serpent-sting that lies hidden behind many an attractive bait, and

cannot understand why they may not follow the desires of their own evil hearts. A thousand snares are laid for their feet. O Lord, give them wisdom, and fortitude, and self-distrust, that they may not become the prey of those who would lead them far astray from truth and holiness. As they grow up into life, and become drawn into the whirl of business and care, O keep them from forgetting that without thy grace they are not proof against the many temptations that will present themselves in their way.

We beseech thee, look compassionately on all who are in affliction and sorrow. Speak thou comfortably to them, and assure them of thy sympathy and tender love. If any who are dear to us are now the subjects of distress or suffering, may it please thee to cheer and relieve them. We know that thou art everywhere present, and art able to help those that are afar off as well as those that are nigh, and we therefore commend those we love to thee.

In thy wisdom and power may it please thee to give witness to thine own truth, and arise to vindicate thine own cause in the world. Put an end, O God, to the wickedness of the nations that forget thee, and to the impious denials of thee which are gaining such power over men's minds. Thou hast all means at thy command, and canst turn souls to thyself as the rivers of water are turned. Put forth thy might, we pray thee, and men shall wake up everywhere to the acknowledgment of thy truth, and submit to thy divine authority.

*Be present through this night, we pray thee, with him we so much love. May he lie down at peace with thee, and with the assurance that thou art watching over him and all for whom he is concerned.*

Into thy hands we now commit ourselves, and trust in thy mercy to raise us up in the morning in health and vigour, prepared for the returning duties of life. Hear and accept us through our adorable Redeemer, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 TIMOTHY, CHAP. VI., VER. 1—21.

### HYMN.

While thee I seek, protecting Power,
Be my vain wishes stilled;
And may this consecrated hour
With better hopes be filled.

Thy love the powers of thought bestowed,
To thee my thoughts would soar;
Thy mercy o'er my life has flowed,
That mercy I adore.

In every joy that crowns my days,
In every pain I bear,
My heart shall find delight in praise,
Or seek relief in prayer.

When gladness wings my favoured hour,
Thy love my thoughts shall fill;
Resigned when storms of sorrow pour,
My soul shall meet thy will.

My lifted eye without a tear
The low'ring storm shall see;
My steadfast heart shall know no fear,
That heart shall rest on thee.

### PRAYER.

Thou unseen, almighty God, the all-wise Creator and Preserver of all men: Thou art the upholder not only of all that comes within our knowledge and understanding, but of unknown worlds, and all the powers in the universe. How vast the range of thy mighty dominion! How infinite the grasp of thy divine mind! We need not fear, insignificant as we are, that thou wilt overlook or neglect us, for thou art fully acquainted with all the creatures thy hand has formed, and hast a constant care for their preservation and happiness. Thou providest for every beast of the forest, the cattle upon a thousand hills; and not even a sparrow falleth to the ground

without our heavenly Father's knowledge. It is in the greatness and comprehensiveness of thy power that men place their reliance for the support of their individual life, and for the continuance to them of all the ordinances of nature. It is thy hand alone, O thou almighty God, that upholds the goings of the sun and all the seasons in their unfailing course, on which we so greatly depend.

Make us feel more and more, we beseech thee, the helplessness of our nature without thy care and blessing extended every moment to us. We praise and adore thee for restoring to us once more the precious light of day after the darkness and silence of the night. By thy favour we have risen in health and strength, to put our hands anew to the work of life to which thou hast called us. We come to entreat thee to crown the natural gifts of thy providence with the bestowal of thy grace, and the communication of thy heavenly influence. Without thee we can do nothing. No good purpose to love and serve thee will be accomplished if thou withhold thy renewing, sanctifying, helping power.

Come, O Lord, this day, and enrich us all with the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Let each of us in our different spheres and capacities receive appropriate blessings. May our servants be taught of thee to serve us in the fear of God, having their conscience tender, and maintaining the recollection of the heavenly Master, who will call us all into judgment. May we know how to dwell with those who are dependent on us, in all honour, not overbearing, nor unmindful of what thou dost demand of us in our own position.

We beseech thee, grant that we may never become the slaves of a worldly or selfish spirit, or be carried away with the desire for present possessions or earthly delights. How poor and unsatisfying are the prospects of the man whose portion is in this life, but who has no far-reaching anticipation of an inheritance incorruptible, that would be

his when he passes away from mortal existence! Thy favour, and a conscious oneness with thee, O God, brings into the soul contentment and great gain, and we implore thee to let us know the blessedness of the man whose God is the Lord.

Impress the young ones before thee with the truthfulness of thy word, that they may not be deceived by the false glitter of earthly riches, and the empty pomps of earthly greatness. Lord, help them to seek, with all the ardour of their nature, the *heavenly* riches and righteousness, which only can endure unto everlasting life.

To-day, O our Father, give them grace to make some advance towards likeness to Jesus, and preparation for the coming of the Lord, the blessed and only Potentate. Help them to combat successfully the inbred sinfulness of their hearts, to deny themselves; and recollecting how their Saviour lived among men, Oh! may they strive to live before thee holily and unblameably, and to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come.

How much, Lord, do we all need grace and strength to meet the emergencies and ever-varying duties of life as they arise, that none of its diversified circumstances or temptations may move us from our steady purpose, serving and glorifying thee with our body and spirit, which are thine! O God, make us all faithful even unto death, that we may receive the crown of life.

*Regard with a father's tender love and pitifulness thy dear servant absent from us. O God, make him equal to all the demands of present duty, and keep him from the many snares and besetments of his occupation in life.*

Now to him that is of power to establish us, according to his gospel, and according to the commandment of the everlasting God, to God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## TUESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—2 TIMOTHY, CHAP. III., AND CHAP. IV., VER. 1—8.

### HYMN.

O God, assist us while we raise
An humble tribute to thy praise;
To thee our song we now address,
As glorious in holiness.

By flaming seraphim adored,
The holy, holy, holy Lord;
Thou art declared of purer eye
Than to behold iniquity.

Where then must guilty worms appear?—
How to thy footstool, Lord, draw near?
Sin in thy presence cannot stand,
But meets the vengeance of thy hand.

Jesus has suffered in our stead,
A great sin offering once he bled;
His death removes our enmity,
And gives us bold approach to thee.

'Tis here, O God of love, we know,
More than all things beside could show,
Nor mind can think, nor tongue express,
How glorious is thy holiness.

### PRAYER.

O God, the return of this solemn hour of family worship calls us once more to thy throne of grace and mercy. We would lift up our hearts with our hands to God in the heavens, and offer up our evening sacrifice, acceptable to thee through Jesus our great High Priest and Intercessor. Thou wilt be sanctified in all those that come unto thee, and honoured in all those that call upon thy name.

Help us to remember, O God, that thou art a Spirit, who cannot be worshipped with men's hands, as though thou needest anything, seeing thou givest to all life, and breath, *and* all things. No parade of words can attract thy

divine regard, or be well-pleasing in thy sight, while the heart is far from thee. Thou hast said, "Unto this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and that trembleth at thy word." We cannot deceive thee with a mockery of devotion, however we may delude ourselves. Oh! help us now to feel the solemnity of our position as we kneel before the Lord our Maker.

We adore thee for thy manifold goodness to us through the past day. Thou hast supported us in our various duties and trials, hast given to us a good measure of health and strength, and all the comforts of our outward life. Fill our hearts, we pray thee, with gratitude for thy many gifts, and help us to live more than ever to thine honour and glory.

Regard us, we beseech thee, as a family. Oh! come and manifest thy love unto us. Be with us through the silent hours of repose. May our exhausted powers be recruited by healthful sleep, so that we may arise in vigour on a new day. Look upon us in our several relations one to another, as parents and children, masters and servants. Help us, O Lord, to live together in harmony and peace, forbearing and forgiving one another in love. May we all be renewed in the spirit of our mind, that we may be able to put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Oh that we may have grace to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Our perils are great in these days of temptation and forgetfulness of God, when there is so much form of godliness, but denial of the power of it,—so much name to live while men are dead. O God, may each of us before thee be Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile. May no outward conformity to the observances of religion, or mere profession of the faith of Christ satisfy us, but may we determine to live godly in Christ Jesus, even though we suffer persecution. How great are our responsibilities, and

those of our children, in having thy truth set so clearly before us, and to know even from our youth the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation! Lord, we pray that these advantages may never rise up in judgment against us. Add to all thine other favours the gift of thy Holy Spirit to sanctify us and lead us into all truth.

Save us, we earnestly entreat thee, from falling into any of the delusions which drown men in destruction and perdition. We trust in thee, O God, to keep our dear children in the right way, and to restrain them from following error in any of its flattering but fatal forms. When they have no other guide or counsellor, do thou instruct them in the path they should take, and make their way plain before their face. Let them never turn away their ears from thy simple truth with a desire after some new thing, but ever follow the beaten path of thy pure law and blessed gospel.

We pray thee, Almighty God, awaken all deluded souls to see the ignorance that holds them in wretched thraldom. Let thy glorious light shine upon them, and thy Spirit quicken them from dead works to serve the living and true God. Thy word remains immutable, and by Christ alone can the sinner hope for salvation. May no human inventions obliterate the glory of the work of Jesus.

We would bring before thee, at this time, all whom we love, wherever they may be. Confirm to them thy faithful promises, and give them under all circumstances to be kept in perfect peace, having their minds stayed on thee. Thou canst cheer the gloomiest heart, and enlighten the darkest prospect. A sight of thy reconciled countenance can shed a bright gleam across even the valley of the shadow of death, and at eventide can make it light. Let this be their happy experience. Now unto him that hath loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and the Father, to *him* be glory and dominion for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—EXODUS, CHAP. XX., VER. 1—23.

### HYMN.

"Without blood is no remission,"
Thus the Lord proclaims from heaven:
Blood must flow—on this condition,
This alone, is sin forgiv'n.
Yes, a victim must be slain;
Else all hope of life is vain.

But the victim, who shall find it?
Such an one as sinners need;
To the altar who shall bind it?
Who shall make the victim bleed?
Questions these, of anxious thought,
And with difficulty fraught.

God himself provides the victim:
Jesus is the Lamb of God:
Heav'n, and earth, and hell afflict him
While he bears the sinner's load.
'Tis his blood, his blood alone,
Can for human guilt atone.

### PRAYER.

O thou, who wast, and art, and art to come; the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. Thou art not only the framer of our bodies, but the Father of our spirits. "Thou hast given to us eternal life, and that life is in thy Son." By sin we have forfeited thy favour, which is our life, and have incurred the sentence of death, by which our souls are excluded for ever from all participation in the joys of everlasting glory. Thy holy law is plainly set before us. We can plead no ignorance of our duty towards thee.

We know that thou hast much against us, and that if we attempt self-justification our own words would condemn us. What can we do, O God, under this heavy burden of conscious iniquity, but come to the cross of thy dear Son, who has borne the sentence, and paid the price

of our redemption—who has shed his precious blood that we might obtain pardon and peace, and reconciliation to our offended God. Believing in Jesus, we regard thy holy law without terror or dismay, and knowing that his complete work and perfect merit have been accepted by thee, may hope in thy mercy to blot out all our transgressions, and in thy grace to renew our corrupt and fallen nature. Henceforth may our love and gratitude for salvation, lead us to a devoted life, and an unwearied course of obedience.

We would not wickedly turn thy grace into a license to sin, but ever strive to follow in the way of holiness that our Lord Jesus has trod before us. May he be our pattern. Help us, we beseech thee, to walk in his steps, and seek earnestly to exhibit his spirit before the world. Our divine Teacher has opened up to us the spiritual meaning of thy laws, the blessed principles they involve. Oh! do thou enable us to bind thy commandments upon our hearts, and may our supreme delight arise from doing thy will and pleasure. How difficult do we often find it to submit to the restraints of thy word, and to bow our understandings to thy divine authority! How ready are we to plead excuses for omissions of duty, and to seek extenuations of transgression! If thy love, O our God, were the ruling principle of our soul, we should run in the way of thy commandments with enlargedness of heart, and should rejoice in thy statutes as much as in all riches.

The young especially, find the gate strait and the road narrow, but we pray thee help them to overcome all difficulties, to subjugate the opposition of their hearts to the dictates of heavenly wisdom, and the obligations of conscience. May thy grace make the burden light, and the joy of the Lord be their strength. In all their attempts to seek thee, and to turn their feet into the way of life, O be thou pleased to aid them. Many foes beset their path; their faith often fails them. O thou blessed Saviour, may the powerful attractions of thy tender love and grace

"sweetly force them in." Through all their journey, whether longer or shorter, may their path be that of the just, which is "as a shining light, shining brighter and brighter, until the perfect day."

How far, O God, is thy righteous law from being the universal rule of men's lives! What impious disregard of thine authority, and indifference to thy claims and thyself do we see on every hand! We wonder at thy forbearance and patience, and cry out, in our amazement, "How long, Lord, shall the enemy exalt himself, and all the workers of iniquity triumph?" "How long wilt thou keep silence?" But we know that with thee "a thousand years are but as one day, and one day as a thousand years." Thou art not slack concerning either thy promises or thy threatenings; but thy day will come when thou shalt overthrow all obstacles, and proclaim thy right to reign from the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same.

O gracious Father, make us all, we pray thee, objects of thy special providence and care this day. We desire to be upheld in thy ways, and to be kept from sinning against thee. If the enemy of our soul should come in like a flood, may the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against him; and if permitted to see the closing hours of this day, may it be in health and peace, and freedom from a sense of guilt and compunction of soul, having been helped by thee to overcome our inbred corruptions.

Look down upon our beloved relatives and friends; *especially thy servant, the head of this household. Go with him into the midst of busy life to-day, and let him never venture without his God into its snares and temptations, or undertake its duties and responsibilities. Be thou near him, a guide, a glory, a defence, and make him "faithful even unto death."* May none of us forget thy many benefits, but delight to honour and praise thee from day to day. And now unto the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—DANIEL, CHAP. VI., VER. 1—28.

### HYMN.

And art thou, gracious Master, gone
A mansion to prepare for me?
Shall I behold thee on thy throne
And there for ever sit with thee?
Then let the world approve or blame,
I'll triumph in thy glorious name.

Should I to gain the world's applause,
Or to escape its harmless frown,
Refuse to countenance thy cause,
And make thy people's lot my own;
What shame would fill me in that day,
When thou thy glory wilt display!

No! let the world cast out my name,
And vile account me if they will;
If to confess the Lord be shame,
I purpose to be viler still.
For thee, my God, I all resign,
Content if I can call thee mine,

What transport then shall fill my heart
When thou my worthless name wilt own;
When I shall see thee as thou art,
And know as I myself am known!
From sin, and fear, and sorrow free,
My soul shall find its rest in thee.

### PRAYER.

O thou, in knowledge of whom is eternal life, and whose service is perfect freedom, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thine Holy Spirit, and give us grace whereby we may serve thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Thou, Lord, hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth, and the *world,* even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.

How glorious the grace thou hast bestowed upon those that trust in thee! In thy strength they have faced the fiercest opposition, and the most cruel persecution of their fellow-men. Thy mighty shield has protected, thine outstretched arm has delivered them from all the malice and hatred of their enemies.

O God, we adore the majesty of thy great power and dominion over all. Thou dost make the wrath of man to praise thee, and the remainder thereof dost thou restrain. Help us to place all our confidence in thee. Not fearing the anger of those who would oppose us, may we endure, as seeing him that is invisible, and choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Make our hearts sincere, and our convictions true and deep.

Let us have grace to strive after the piety and devotion that characterized thy people of old. Never may we be ashamed to acknowledge that we fear God, and determine to live to his glory.

O Lord, inspire the young with ardour in thy service. Let them not blush to own their Lord and Master, nor to assume the name and profession of those who are separate from the world. Give to all our dear children, we entreat thee, such a deeply-rooted love to Christ, as no temptations or threatenings can destroy; such a settled purpose by thy grace, to live holy and unblameable lives, as no earthly considerations can undermine. Oh! impart to them thy Spirit, to lead them into the practice of all godliness, and the abhorrence of all sin. Nothing on earth is worth their striving for, but thy knowledge, thy friendship, and blessing. Heaven itself would be no place of bliss to the soul, if thou wert not its glorious light. This night we draw near to thy presence, to acknowledge our sins, and implore mercy and forgiveness. Oh! may the precious blood of Christ purge our conscience from all guilt, and do thou bestow upon us the joys of thy salva-

tion. We thank thee for all that has distinguished our lot this day from that of many around us. How hast thou lavished thy favours upon us, and crowned our lives with thy great goodness! Vouchsafe us thy blessing through the night upon which we have now entered. Thou Lord, art our sun and shield. The night shall be light about us, if thou, our God, art around our bed. May the pillar of fire be our protection by night, as the cloudy pillar of thy Providence is our guide by day. Give thine angels charge over us during our unconscious hours. "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation?"

In mercy hear us, we beseech thee, for all whom we love, and for whom we would intercede. Let thy love be their constant solace, and thy grace their sufficient support.

*May thine especial mercy rest on the dear father of this family. Be with him wherever he now is. Let thy power uphold him in all his ways. Sanctify to him the discipline of life. May nothing that happens to him, contrary to his wishes, move him from his trust in thee, nor divert him from the pursuit of thy blessing.*

Remember the cause of thy truth in the world, we entreat thee, and send a blessing on those who are in any way doing thy work. May the time soon come to favour Zion, yea the set time, when she shall become a praise in all the earth.

Bend thy gracious ear, O most merciful Father, to these our evening supplications; answer them according to thy wisdom and mercy. Pardon all our sins and give us peace. May we arise in the morning, under a cheerful sense of thy goodness, prepared to love and serve thee. All we ask is in the name, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory for ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOSHUA, CHAP. XXIV., VER. 1—33.

### HYMN.

Day by day the manna fell;
Oh! to learn this lesson well:
Still by daily mercy fed,
Give me, Lord, my daily bread.

Day by day the promise reads,
Daily strength for daily needs,
Cast foreboding fears away;
Take the manna of to-day.

Lord, my times are in thy hand,
All my sanguine hopes have planned.
To thy wisdom I resign,
And would make thy pleasure mine.

Thou my daily task shalt give:
Day by day to thee I live:
So shall added years fulfil,
Not my own—my Father's will.

Oh! to live exempt from care,
By the energy of prayer;
Strong in faith with mind subdued,
Yet elate with gratitude.

### PRAYER.

"Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods, who is like unto thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" Thou hast magnified thy righteous character, in the experience of all ages. "Thou doest great things, and unsearchable, marvellous things without number." Thou wast the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and of the holy and upright through all the generations of men. Happy is the people whose God is Jehovah, whose hope is in the Most High. May we, who now present ourselves at thy footstool, possess the assurance that thou art our God, and our portion for ever.

No object beneath the skies can satisfy the cravings of our immortal and intelligent nature for happiness and peace. If we could call the treasures of Egypt, and all the gold of Ophir our own, yet should we remain unblest if our soul had not a treasure in the heavens that fadeth not, "Where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal."

If any of us are yet strangers to the blessedness of true piety, and a sense of pardoned sin, let us not remain so any longer. Send some message from thy word, or some influence from thy Spirit that shall stir us up to lay hold on eternal life, and to give thee no rest except thou bless us.

We thank thee for the happiness of our lot in life; for the measure of earthly delight, satisfaction, and prosperity thou dost apportion to us. "The lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage." On how many has it not pleased thee to bestow so much family joy and peace as we have. Some are tossed to and fro upon a stormy sea of life, or tried with family afflictions and sorrow. If this be not our case we would not boast, but lift up to thee the voice of humble praise, drawing from thine abounding mercies, arguments to duty and consecration to thy service.

We pray thee help us to dwell together as a family in harmony and love. May "all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil-speaking be put away from us, with all malice, and may we be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another," and may we not, by any family strife, grieve the Spirit of God. It is hard to curb the natural rising of selfishness, and passion and revenge, in our sinful hearts. Often in the effort we prove ourselves unequal to the contest without thine almighty help. But it is on thine aid, and not our own strength we rely for victory.

O heavenly Father, teach our dear children how to deny themselves, when tempted to indulge in any of those

sinful tempers or evil inclinations which have such strong root in their depraved nature. Sanctify them, body, soul, and spirit. We know this is not the work of a day, or of a year, but of the whole course of their life. It may be they must come out of great tribulation, before their robes shall be washed pure and spotless; but Oh! let us see that thou hast begun the good work in them, for then we know thou wilt complete it unto the end.

Lord, help us all to strive this day to gain the mastery over some sin, or some defect in our character, that we may be hastening on from grace to glory. When we meet again at the close of the day, may it be with the conviction, that by thy grace we have held on our way, and "waxed stronger and stronger."

We entreat thee hear us for the outpouring of thy Spirit upon all flesh, for the enlightening of dark souls, and the salvation of those that are out of the way. Many will not knock at mercy's door. They have no desire for spiritual blessings. Oh! may they see that soon death will land them on a boundless shore of terrors, if they have not made the God of Jacob their God and Saviour. Do thou establish all who have commenced to travel on the way of holiness, and grant that many more may be added to the number of those that are "alive to God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Almighty Father, it is to thee we look this morning, for protection in our going out and coming in, and in all our ways. Oh! for grace to keep us from falling into sin and folly, or into any kind of danger! Be with us and bless us. Hear our prayer at this time, and whenever we call upon thee, in the name and through the intercession of our adorable Redeemer, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## THURSDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—LUKE, CHAP. XII., VER. 1—37.

### HYMN.

Yes, for me, for me he careth
With a brother's tender care;
Yes, with me, with me he shareth
Every burden, every fear.

Yes, o'er me, o'er me he watcheth,
Ceaseless watcheth, night and day;
Yes, even me, even me he snatcheth
From the perils of the way.

Yes, for me he standeth pleading,
At the mercy-seat above;
Even for me interceding,
Constant in untiring love.

Yes, in me, in me he dwelleth,
I in him, and he in me;
And my empty soul he filleth,
Here and through eternity.

Thus I wait for his returning,
Singing all the way to heaven,
Such the joyful song of morning,
Such the tranquil song of even.

### PRAYER.

Infinite art thou, O great God, in majesty and glory, and infinite in love and mercy. Thy power and wisdom have created us, thy kindness and care have upheld us ever since we had a being. We are the objects of thy constant providence, and thou dost condescend to make our mean affairs the subjects of thy divine thought and attention.

The most insignificant of thy creatures is not beneath thy notice, for thou givest the breath of life to every living thing. What could we do if thou shouldst withhold the gifts of thine hand, or cease the supply of our daily and hourly wants? To whom could we turn for help under our many difficulties, or for consolation under our many sorrows?

Thou, O Lord, art the only Giver of all good. On the

bestowals of thine hand we are utterly dependent. What thousands overlook thee in the enjoyment of their earthly comforts, and altogether disregard thine interpositions on their behalf! but we would cherish the belief that thou art our Father, and carest for us, and for all that concerns us.

Let no anxieties, nor sinful fears take possession of our hearts, for thou dost care for us, and wilt be our Guide in every perplexity, our Preserver in every peril, our Comforter in every affliction. Enable us to tell thee all that distresses and whatever troubles us. In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, may we let our requests be made known unto God. Thou most tender and compassionate Father, canst not know our sorrows and anxieties, our fears and difficulties, and withhold thine aid and divine consolations. Thou wilt not turn a deaf ear to the cry of those that seek thee, but wilt come unto them, and that to bless them.

Thou, the sovereign Lord and King, hast control over all the powers in heaven and earth. No obstacle can arise to the operations of thine hand. None can hinder the fulfilment of thy purposes towards those that love thee. We rejoice, therefore, to come to thee, and know that we shall never be disappointed, that our hope and trust in thee shall never be put to shame. We need not detail our wants or desires before thee at this time. Thou knowest them better than we know them ourselves, but we beseech thee for Christ's sake to meet them all with suitable supplies of grace and mercy.

We have reason to praise and bless thee to-night for thy renewed goodness and continued love. We committed ourselves to thy care, and thou hast watched over us; we trusted in thee and thou hast been faithful unto us. None of the good things thou hast promised hast thou failed to bestow. Save us, we pray thee, from turning thy mercies into a curse, by using them only for selfish ends and to earthly indulgence. To thee we must render an account of our stewardship of all thou hast given us so richly to

enjoy. Oh! may this consideration ever be present to our hearts, that we may not foolishly say to ourselves, "Take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry," forgetful that our souls will be required of us.

We beseech thee, hear our prayers for all who are afflicted in mind, body, or estate; for all who are languishing on beds of sickness and wasting under the ravages of disease. How many in such a case have no hold on thy supporting arm, no prospect of eternal life by Christ Jesus. Oh! appear for such, and inspire them with true Christian hope. Lead them to thyself as the God who comforteth them that are cast down, and give them the joy and peace of thy salvation. Lord, let us all have a happy sense of thy love cheering us through the whole journey of life. Make us glad in thee, and put a new song in our mouth, even praise unto our God.

*Graciously appear for thy dear servant absent from us. Grant him day and night thy constant care and mercy. May his bow long abide in strength, and his soul prosper and be in health.*

O hear, Lord, our prayer for the advance of holy principles and the fear of God in the world. How many there are who know thee not and delight not in thy ways. May they be brought into blessed spiritual connection with thee, and enjoy the privileges of thy chosen, and called, and faithful ones.

This night, as we all retire to rest, may we have a sweet sense of thy forgiving love. May the sins of the past day be blotted from the book of thy remembrance, through the precious blood of Christ, and may we all lie down at peace with God. If it please thee that we rise again in the morning, may it be to renew our sense of thy mercy, and our vows to be the Lord's in time and eternity. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, for ever and ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOB, CHAP. XXVIII., VER. 1—28.

### HYMN.

Kind Guardian of my sleeping hours,
  Accept the thanks I bring:
Beneath thy smiles, my feeble powers
  Would their Preserver sing.

Give me thyself, the only good,
  And ever with me stay,
Whose faithful mercies are renewed,
  With each returning day.

This day preserve me without sin,
  Unspotted in thy ways;
And hear me, while I usher in
  The welcome morn with praise.

Far as the east from west, remove
  Each earthly vain desire:
And raise me on the wings of love,
  Oh! raise me daily higher.

Let all my words and all my ways
  Declare that I am thine;
That so the light of truth and grace
  Before the world may shine.

### PRAYER.

O Lord our God, we draw near unto thee in the light of this new morning, to adore thee for thy loving care extended to us through the perils of another night. We committed ourselves to thee in all our dependence, knowing that thine eye neither slumbers nor sleeps, and that thine omnipotent arm can never grow weary. By thy merciful iuterposition we have now arisen, and thank thee for the measure of health and vigour by which we are prepared to resume the various duties of life. Constantly dost thou thus follow us with thy watchful love, and dost impart to us grace upon grace. Oh! that our hearts were filled with a grateful recollection of all thy favours!

Every day brings with it temptations and trials of its own, its own obligations, difficulties, and needs; and this day will not be an exception. We therefore would be found early seeking thee, that we may obtain wisdom and strength, to meet all that shall arise in our way in a becoming spirit,—not daunted by hindrances, not discouraged by disappointments and failures, not dismayed by troubles. O Lord, hold up our goings this day in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. Let us not yield to any sinful inclination, or acquiesce in any suggestion of the Evil One. May the fear of God preserve us from following any course of disobedience, and may thy grace, O God, uphold us in the pursuit of whatsoever things are true, and honest, and pure, and lovely, and of good report.

Thou hast said, if any of us lack wisdom we may ask of thee, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. Lord, our hearts are foolish and ignorant. We know not how to seek thee, how to serve thee, how to contend with the evil that is within and around us. Impart to us, we pray thee, that fear of thee which is the beginning of wisdom, and which none but thyself can teach us. In vain shall we search for it in the counsels of men, or in the secrets of the wise. It can be imparted by no human instructions, and no price can purchase it. From thee we seek the gift of thy grace to enable us "to depart from all evil, which is understanding." Lord, may each of our dear children receive this divine gift, and prize it more than earthly treasure. No acquirements, however important for this life, can fit them for the life above; and no knowledge they may obtain, however necessary for their connection with time, can surpass the importance of knowing thee, the only living and true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Thou art the only object in the universe that will engage the thought and love of the soul through all eternity. Oh! may they set thee always before them as *their chief good.*

In mercy guard us all to-day. We cannot avert trouble from ourselves, nor any of the evils to which we are exposed. May our sense of entire helplessness and dependence, lead us to thine almighty strength, and merciful protection at all times.

We ask thee to comfort and support those who are in affliction. Visit the weak and sickly with thine animating presence, and do thou give them peace and resignation to thine holy will. May *souls* that are diseased and faint, and *hearts* that are weary, be recovered by thy grace and salvation, which are for the healing of the nations. Oh! rescue all men from the deadly poison of sin, and impart to them through thy truth, spiritual health and life.

*This day we ask thee to be with our dear absent one. We commend him to thy love and blessing. Hold thou him up, and he shall be safe. Preserve him from sickness and accident and every danger, and restore him to us in health and happiness, rejoicing in thy faithfulness, love, and care.*

Let all whom we love share in thy great goodness. Give them amidst their various trials and cares, to find thy grace sufficient for them, and thy strength made perfect in weakness. May we all be brought safely through the perils of our mortal state, and find an abundant entrance into thine everlasting kingdom. Thanks be unto thee for the assurance of a home that can never change, of a rest that is perfect and ceaseless, and a glory that fadeth not away. Oh! may we all meet in that blessed home, when our earthly home has been for ever deserted.

May those that serve us have a hope too that is full of immortality, and a portion in thee, which can never be taken from them. Hear us now, O our Father. Pardon, for our Saviour's sake, all our transgressions, and keep us this day without sin. We ask all in Jesus' name, and to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we would render praise and glory, for ever. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## FRIDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—JOHN, CHAP. III. VER. 1—36.

### HYMN.

Oh! Holy Ghost, descend
With energy divine;
And on our poor benighted minds,
With beams of mercy shine.

From thy celestial stores,
Light, life, and joy dispense;
And may we daily, hourly feel
Thy quickening influence.

Oh! melt the frozen heart,
The stubborn will subdue;
Each evil passion overcome,
And form our souls anew.

The blessing will be ours;
But thine shall be the praise;
To Jesus may we now devote
The remnant of our days.

### PRAYER.

O thou, whose name alone is Jehovah. The day is thine; the night also is thine. Thou hast appointed the moon for seasons, and the sun knoweth his going down. "All thy works praise thee, and thy saints bless thee." "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High. To shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night."

Once more are we privileged to come to thy footstool; once more may we avail ourselves of the new and living way, and enter into the holy of holies, to hold intercourse with our Father which is in heaven. Once more hast thou proved to us thy constant love and faithfulness, and given *us fresh* occasion to adore and magnify thee.

We have again to confess failure, imperfection, actual transgression—many things done which bring regret and confusion of face before thee. How little sense do we entertain of the importance of vital godliness! Conformity to outward duties, and acquiescence in the demands of external religion, often satisfy us, without a strong conviction of the need of a new birth,—an entire renovation of our ruined nature. But thy word, O Lord, declares the necessity of such a great change. We "must be born again" of the Spirit, or we cannot see the kingdom of God. Our sinful souls in all their degradation and defilement are not fit for the holy intercourse and exalted service of the heavenly state. Gracious God, work, we entreat thee, this mystery of godliness in our hearts. Renew a right spirit within us. Conform our wills to thy will, and may our desires, tastes, and pursuits be henceforward such as thou canst recognise and bless.

We thank thee for the precious gift of thy Son to be our Saviour; that when we were lost and ruined by the fall, thou didst send forth Jesus, to be lifted up upon the cross, "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." We could not have been our own redeemer; nor could our dearest friends have offered unto God a ransom for us; but thou hast set before our eyes thine all-sufficient sacrifice, who has endured the penalty of our transgressions, has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

Open the eyes of our beloved children to see their need of such a Saviour. Prevent them by thy grace, thou blessed Jesus, from despising thee, or casting away thine offers of love and mercy. Give them a true conviction of sin, and penitence before thee, because of their disobedience to thy will. Oh! may they not seek peace by striving to make themselves better, but may they understand the divine secret of true joy and hope. Enable them, we pray thee, to come to thee just as they are, and lay hold on

life as it is freely offered to them in the gospel, without money and without price. At the foot of the cross may they lose all their burdens, and *there* make all their resolutions.

We commend unto thee all belonging to us, wherever they are, and whatever their circumstances. Lord, be thou to them a very present help in every time of need, and do thou suit thine appearances for them to their individual requirements.

Hear our prayer for the interests of thy Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem; make her a praise in all the earth. O God, shine forth, and give efficacy to the word of thy grace. Men close their eyes, and stop their ears to the teachings of thine inspired revelation, and we beseech thee, send thy Holy Spirit, with his mighty power, to bring conviction to their conscience, and to throw light upon their darkened understandings. Let all who are striving to do good, be owned of thee; and the many faithful labourers who are gone forth into the benighted parts of the world, to lead men to the knowledge of thee and of thy salvation, be abundantly blessed in their work.

This night, O our Father, we entreat thee, come and guard us from all perils, and let no plague come nigh our dwelling. Be as a wall of fire round about us. Favour us with that healthful repose we all so much need, to fit us for the renewal of our duties on the coming day.

*Graciously watch over him we so much love. May he be enabled to lie down free from care, distress, and anxiety, committing all his interests for time and eternity to thy covenant mercy and faithfulness.*

May all our days, begun, continued, and ended in thee, be preparing us for the participation of an endless life, and glory everlasting. O Lord, whether we wake or sleep, may we live together with thee, and enjoy the hope of life in Christ, which maketh not ashamed. We ask all through Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—PSALM XVIII., VER. 1—35.

### HYMN.

My God, how wonderful thou art!
Thy majesty how bright!
How radiant thy mercy-seat,
In depths of burning light!

How dread are thine eternal years,
Oh! everlasting Lord!
By prostrate spirits day and night
Incessantly adored.

Oh, how I fear thee, living God,
With deepest, tenderest fears!
And worship thee with humble hope,
And penitential tears.

Yet may I love thee too, O Lord,
Almighty as thou art,
For thou hast stooped to ask of me
The love of my poor heart.

Father of Jesus, God of love,
What rapture will it be,
Prostrate before thy throne to lie,
And ever gaze on thee!

### PRAYER.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, give ear to our supplication. In thy faithfulness answer us, and in thy righteousness. We rejoice to know that thou art both able and willing to help and enrich us with thine abundant mercies.

Give us, we beseech thee, large desires in coming to thee, and increase our faith that we may rely upon thy promises, which are "all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. We know our wants to be many, and great, and constant. Never can we say, "I have need of nothing." Sin has impoverished our nature, once so richly endowed by thyself; has stripped us of all resources in ourselves; has made us wretched, and consciously separate from all happiness and peace.

O Lord, we can never recover our lost delight in thee,

the source of all true bliss, nor become possessed of spiritual treasures while we seek them in opposition to thy will and thine own appointed way. It has pleased thee to say, "This is the way of life; walk thou into it." Oh! may we be led in thy paths, and helped to seek thy face, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. How feeble are the efforts we make to approve ourselves unto thee, and how often do we utterly fail! But be thou our strength and righteousness, our Jesus and our all.

Thou, Lord of life, canst impart life to our souls, dead in trespasses and sins. Thou canst inspire holy thoughts and heavenly aspirations. Thou, the great Physician of souls, canst heal the wounds that sin has made, canst restore health to our entire nature, and make us strong to do the work of God. Thou canst shelter us from all the perils of the way, and make us victorious over all opposition. Thou art our rock and the horn of our salvation, our fortress and our high tower. We have found thee, O God, a refuge in times of trouble. Often have we sheltered our spirits from the attacks of the enemy, under the shadow of thy wings. Our God has girded us with strength, when we have overcome evil with good, and baffled the artifices of the great destroyer, by the word of truth.

We beseech thee, be thou with us throughout this day, in whatever we may have to do; in the various occupations that will require our attention, enable us to set the Lord always before us. If thou wilt be at our right hand, upholding us by thy power, we shall not stumble nor fall, but shall hold on our way rejoicing.

Bless thy handmaid amid her many cares, anxieties, and responsibilities. How much she needs thy sustaining arm to support her, thy guiding hand to direct her, and thy grace to sanctify her! Let her children rise up and call her blessed, and never have to reproach her for a bad example, but help her to lead them by her life, as well as by her counsels, in the way in which they should go.

*Be pleased to bless their absent parent. Lord, bestow upon him grace and mercy, and make him equal to all the demands that are made upon his character and principles. Amidst his many duties and obligations may he be sustained by thee, and be kept from every evil.*

Regard our dear children with thine infinite love and compassion. How great is our desire that they should walk before thee with a perfect heart, and not follow the way of those that "rebel against the light, that know not the way thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof"! Thy divine light does shine upon their understandings, but only thy power can cause it to penetrate the dark recesses of their soul. Do thou, O God, write thy laws upon their hearts, and incline them to seek acquaintance with thee, and thereby peace and good shall come to them.

We commend to thee our beloved relatives, and all who are dear to us. Make thyself known to them as a faithful, loving God. Multiply to them thy mercies, enlarge to them thy bounty, and load them daily with thy benefits. Bring them, we pray thee, out of their various troubles and trials, and brighten their darkest shades of sorrow.

We pray for our servants. Bestow upon them thy saving grace. Let them not be the worse but the better, for their connection with this family, and when thou shalt call us all up to thy bar, to give up our account of the deeds done in the body, may we find acceptance with thee, and the forgiveness of our many iniquities, through the sufficient work and merit of our divine Redeemer.

Great God, we beseech thee, hear us for those who have no part nor lot in the matter of salvation, who will not listen to the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely. Oh! break down all their unwillingness, melt away all their hard-heartedness, and make them thine in the day of thy power. We implore thee, forgive our sins, and accept us now. Far exceed our petitions, for the sake of our Redeemer and Advocate, Christ Jesus. AMEN.

# Fourth Week.

## SATURDAY NIGHT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—1 JOHN, CHAP. IV., VER. 1—21.

HYMN.

Amid the splendours of thy state,
My God, thy love appears,
With the soft radiance of the moon
Among a thousand stars.

Nature, through all her ample round,
Thy boundless power proclaims,
And in melodious accents speaks
The goodness of thy names.

Thy justice, holiness, and truth,
Our solemn awe excite;
But the sweet charms of sovereign grace
O'erwhelm us with delight.

Angels and men the news proclaim
Through earth and heaven above,
The joyful, the transporting news,
That God the Lord is Love.

PRAYER.

Most blessed God, it has pleased thee in thy great mercy and love, to permit our gathering together once more, around the throne of the heavenly grace. We would do so with humility, because of our conscious unworthiness, and with much gratitude for all thy lovingkindness.

Thou art always doing us good. Thy name and thy nature is Love. It is the chief attribute of thy glorious character. It is as the God of love, that as sinners we can now venture to approach thee. If we consider only thy justice and righteousness, apart from thy goodness and mercy, we are filled with awe and dismay. But when, O gracious God, we see the beamings of thy love—the rainbow round about the throne,—when we look upon the living and eternal proof of thy love, in the gift of thine only begotten Son, that we might live through him, then are we

encouraged to believe that thy fatherly heart does beat with tender pity and compassion for thy wandering and lost children.

It becomes us, as the objects of thy divine love, to cultivate and exhibit the spirit of love to others. If we are full of malice, and selfishness, and evil feelings, we are not yet born of God, have no resemblance to him, no claim to the privileges of his sons. O Lord, we beseech thee, inspire us with this heavenly temper. Make us live under the power of this blessed principle, and show forth the loving mind that was in Christ Jesus. Without the possession of this true charity, we are nothing, and can do nothing to please thee. To thee, Lord, we owe our being, our redemption, our life, our all. Thou art the altogether lovely, the chief among ten thousand. Yet how indifferent are we to our obligations, how unmoved by thy charms! O thou loving and gracious Saviour, condescend to reveal to us the glories of thy grace and thy divine compassion, the riches of thy mercy and love, that we may delight ourselves in thee, and joy in thy salvation.

We look back this night over the experiences of the past week, and see much that calls us to humiliation. We have not been so watchful as we might have been against evil tendencies. Often have we grieved thy Spirit by our waywardness and self-indulgence. In how many ways have we manifested the natural depravity of our hearts! We come with the burden of our guilt to the blessed cross of Jesus. O Lamb of God, we cry unto thee. Do thou, O Christ, have mercy upon us. Help us by faith to lay our hand on thine atoning sacrifice, and find that our sins which are many are all forgiven us.

Bless us as a family. Enrich us with thy gracious favour. Pour out thy Holy Spirit on all our dear children. Let them know the love of God, that passeth knowledge, and daily experience the communications of thy grace and

mercy. Make them happy and noble-hearted in their intercourse with one another. May nothing happen to bring discord among us. Let us bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ; and being knit together in love, may we be proof against all temptations to jealousy, and anger, and selfishness, which so often interrupt family peace.

By the rapid passing of week after week, we are all reminded how quickly we are being borne onwards, out of time into eternity. Oh! may we be making haste to prepare for the issues of life, and our unchanging condition in another world.

Prepare us, we beseech thee, for the coming Sabbath day. May we arise with bodies and minds refreshed, after the toils and anxious cares of the week, and enter upon its sacred engagements with a spirit in harmony with its holy duties and delights. Let the instructions of thy word lead us farther into the knowledge of thyself, our merciful God, and make us holier and more devoted to thy service. May thy minister, on whose teaching we shall attend, be taught himself of thee, and be able to proclaim the glorious gospel of the blessed God. Let all thy faithful servants be strengthened in body and mind for their important work on the coming day, and be made instrumental of bringing many out of nature's darkness into the light of spiritual life.

Be thou very near to bless all whom we love this night. We know that thou art everywhere present, and it is our comfort to be able to commit our dear absent ones to an omnipresent Jehovah. Now, O our gracious Father, lend a listening ear to the voice of our supplications. We come not before thee in our own name, and have no righteousness to plead, but we mention the name and merit of our Lord Jesus Christ, and ascribe unto him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, never-ending praises. AMEN.

# OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

# Occasional Prayers.

## FOR THE LAST NIGHT OF THE YEAR.

O thou most high and holy God, thy throne is for ever and ever. In the beginning hast thou laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail..

We rejoice, amid the continual vicissitudes and changes of this mortal state, to know that thou art immutable. This is our only stay, and the rock on which the whole fabric of human affairs rests. O God, if thy years, like ours, could have an end, and thy counsels, which have been ever of old, could be unsettled, or the foundation of thine eternal purpose could be destroyed, what could the righteous do? And what, Lord, could the sinner do? Where could he turn when overwhelmed with dismay and distress? Blessed be thy holy name, we know that thou art Jehovah, and changest not; therefore we sons of men are not consumed. We can look unto thee as months and years roll past, and feel that thou art still the same as thou hast been to us, and to all those who have gone before us.

O our God, this closing day, and these few last hours of another year, demand from us a review of all our time. We have enjoyed much privilege, and many opportunities of making our peace with thee. We have all been followed every step of our way by thy goodness and mercy. O how

manifold have been thy bestowals of favour, and how constant thy faithfulness to us! We will sing of the loving-kindness of the Lord, and talk of all his wondrous works.

We cannot make this retrospect without a sense of great unworthiness, of much omission of duty, and much ingratitude towards thee. We beseech thee to be merciful to our unrighteousness, and ere another year shall open upon us, give us all to know that we are accepted in the Beloved.

We would consider at this time, from how much evil thou hast delivered us, and from how many known and unknown dangers thine arm has shielded us. Many through the past year have endured great privations, great afflictions, great reverses; some have spent the year on a bed of sickness and wasting disease, and many have passed away from this mortal state. But we have enjoyed much exemption from these afflictions. We are still the living—the living to praise thee. Oh! may our spared lives be more than ever consecrated to thee. Let us not, we pray thee, be cumberers of the ground any longer, lest the command should be given to cut us down.

Bless the young with a desire to give themselves to thy service in the coming year. Make them feel the solemn fact that they are passing on with time, and can never retrace their steps. Every year as it passes by brings them nearer to their last, and every call to turn unto thee and live leaves them under heavier condemnation if they have not yet resolved to seek thy face.

We earnestly beseech thee, O Lord, that we may all possess the precious hope, that when time with us shall be no longer, we may meet together in that peaceful home of the soul, where there are no months, nor years, nor changing seasons, but one eternal, blessed day; where we shall all unite, not in prayers and supplications, for wants will be unknown, but in one long ascription of praise and adoration unto him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb, *for ever* and ever.

We look unto thee, O our God, and to thy grace for this glorious issue out of our tribulations and struggles, and ask now for thy strength to keep us faithful, even unto death, through Jesus Christ our dear Redeemer. AMEN.

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## FOR THE FIRST MORNING OF THE YEAR.

Blessed be thy holy name, thou God of all goodness, for the love and mercy that permits our commencing this first day of a new year surrounded by many comforts and privileges. We would acknowledge our dependence upon thee, not only for life and breath, but for all things that thou givest us so richly to enjoy.

We draw near to thee this morning, to offer praise and thanksgiving for thy special favours towards us. Many that hoped to see this day have been snatched away by the hand of death before its coming, and many who do see it have no appreciation of its importance as a connecting link between the past and the future. We, O Lord, would think deeply of the position we hold to-day at the commencement of new time. We cannot tell what the unknown future may have in store for us of duty, of trial, and of difficulty; nor what of joy, and happiness, and prosperity. We desire not to be over-anxious respecting thy coming dispensations towards us, but would seek that our hearts may be in a right state, to receive all thy dealings with meekness and submission.

If it should please thee to send us, during this year, any severe trouble to bear, or hard tasks to perform, or great suffering to endure, do thou mercifully aid us to say, "Not my own will, but thine, be done." "The cup that my Father giveth me, shall I not drink it?" Thou canst make all bitter trials sweet, and canst lighten the burden of any

heavy cross. Oh! then we need "fear no evil, for thou wilt be with us; thy rod and thy staff they shall comfort us."

We earnestly pray thee to appear for us this year as the God of providence, supplying all our temporal necessities. How many commence this new portion of time in deep poverty, with no earthly resources, and few to pity and help them! but we, through thy bountiful provision, are lacking nothing that is good for us. We have enough and to spare, while many perish with hunger. Lord, make us sensible of our obligations unto thee, and enable us to trust thee for our daily bread.

May this new year find us renewing our love to Jesus, and our purpose to serve him. Help us to remember what he has done and suffered for us, and by thy grace may we be enabled to do and deny ourselves much for him. Grant that we may become less the slaves of sin and self, and learn to dread the dominion of evil in our nature. O that we may become the servants of the living God, and employ all our talents for his glory. Heavenly work is to serve God, and if we would dwell with thee for ever *there*, we must be about our divine Father's business *here*. O may we this year do what in us lies to honour thee, our gracious and merciful Redeemer. We have in the past been neglectful of thy claims, and slighted thy great kindness, lightly esteemed thy love. But we desire in coming time to be more faithful, more obedient, more like unto men that watch for their Lord, that when he cometh and knocketh they may open unto him immediately.

Lord, we commend to thee all our beloved relatives and friends. We intercede with thee to bestow upon them special mercies. Let the pillar of cloud go before them through all their wanderings in this wilderness world. May this year be full of happy experiences to them and to us, and may we rejoice in the Lord at all times.

O Lord, may there be throughout the world a great *awakening of* men to the realities of thy truth, a great

turning unto thee. May thy ministers be more zealous in thy work, more concerned to be faithful to their solemn trust. Great powers are stirred up against the Lord, and against his anointed. Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. We pray thee, stay their progress, that they proceed no further, and let the blessed truths of thine everlasting gospel gain mighty triumphs this year, to the glory of the Triune God.

Now, Lord, we look up for thy benediction, we wait for thine appearing, we long for thy grace and mercy. Bless us through every day and hour of the coming year, and all our life on earth, and we will render ceaseless praise unto thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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## TO BE USED AFTER A FAMILY BIBLE-READING.

O God of truth and salvation, we beseech thee, look down upon us now. We have been reading thy most blessed word, and come unto thee in humble supplication, to entreat thee to bless to us what we have learnt of thy holy truth. It is not enough that our understandings receive thy knowledge, if our hearts remain hard and insensible. It will not profit us that we have been instructed in the mysteries of godliness, and been taught the meaning of the Holy Scriptures, if we are not led by thy Spirit to feel the force of truth, and the sanctifying power of thy doctrine.

We need the influence of thy grace at this time, that we may not lose the impression we have received. Come, thou blessed Spirit, and seal upon these young hearts the principles and precepts of thy gospel. May their understandings bow to thine authority, and make them willing in the day of thy power.

The natural mind is enmity against thee. Thy ways will afford them no delight until thy Spirit renews their nature and sanctifies them wholly. We beseech thee, may they all be born again, all have a new heart and a tender conscience, and be led to seek thee as their only portion, in time and eternity. Blessed Jesus, make them lambs in thy fold. Carry them in thy bosom, protect them from every danger, and lead them in paths of righteousness for thy name's sake.

O Lord, it is their parents' deepest concern that they should be united to Christ by a true and saving faith, and possess a title to all the joys of thy redeemed people. Only thou canst impart this divine gift, and we seek unto thee for it at this time. May we never find thy word rising up to witness against us because of our unbelief. Give to these dear children to mix faith with what they hear or read, that it may profit them eternally. Thanks be unto thee for thy glorious gospel, and the hopes it inspires of a life hereafter, a blessed immortality. May each of us be possessors of this hope, and rejoice in the prospect of an eternal home in the skies. We ask all thy mercies in the name and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose teaching we address thee as

Our Father which art in heaven, &c.

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## THE SAME.

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, behold us as we bow before thy throne of grace, to supplicate thy blessing on what we have now read. It is thine to make thy word effectual in sanctifying and saving our souls. We know that Paul may plant and Apollos water, but thou only canst give the increase, therefore we come humbly to seek

that the seed of heavenly truth, sown in our hearts by the study of thy word, may not prove unfruitful, but may take deep root and spring up to thine honour and glory.

Gracious Lord, regard with tender compassion these dear children now before thee. How much they need thy divine teaching! How ignorant they are of the plague of their own heart, of their wants and weakness! How exposed they are to the mischievous designs of the Evil One! No earthly arm can protect them, no worldly wisdom can counsel them. Thou only canst be their protector through the dangerous journey of life. Thy precepts alone can be a lamp unto their feet, and a light unto their path. May they highly value the instructions they receive from time to time, and learn to hide thy word in their heart, that they may not sin against thee. Only by taking heed unto the dictates of heavenly truth and wisdom, can they be kept from wandering into the way of the wicked.

Oh! save them from the many snares that beset their path. Great God, how earnestly do we desire that they may be thine, and sharers in all the blessings of redemption! May thy mercy save, and thy grace renew them. No power of ours can redeem their soul from the dominion of sin. Thy Spirit's work must be carried on in their heart, or they will not become thy true servants. Lord, be pleased to begin that good work in them. If it please thee, O begin it to-day. May they *now* feel the evil of sin, and *now* repent and believe in Jesus.

Open their eyes to see how far they are from God, and how great their danger while they remain at a distance from him. O our merciful God, if they are now disposed to humble themselves and return to their heavenly Father, do thou meet them in tender pity and love. Let thine heart of divine compassion yearn over them to do them good. We leave them to the power of constraining mercy and goodness, and trust for them in the faithfulness of thy promise.

Now be pleased to hear these our poor feeble petitions, and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake; and to him, with God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all praise and honour, and glory for ever. AMEN.

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## PRAYER FOR A SICK CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON.

O thou in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways; thou God of providence as well as of grace: We are the creatures of thy power, and altogether dependent for being and well-being on thy sovereign will and pleasure. Thou canst at any time deprive us of all we possess, canst strip us of every earthly good; canst send sharp suffering, and fill our cup with bitter grief.

No shield can ward off affliction, when it pleases thee to send it. But we rejoice to know that the hand that smites us is the hand of our loving Father, who doth not afflict willingly, nor take pleasure in grieving the children of men.

O Lord, be pleased to bend thine ear now to our petitions while we supplicate thy pity and compassion for our dear sufferer. Be pleased to remove [his] pain, and restore [him] to health and strength again, if it seem good in thy sight. But, we pray thee, give [him] grace to lie passive in thine hands, and know no will but thine. Thou canst not mistake in any of thy dealings with [him]. It must be well with the child, even though he suffer, if thine infinite wisdom has purposed and planned all that shall happen to [him]. Thou hast kind designs even in the darkest dispensations of thy providence.

Often the richest and best blessings lie concealed beneath the heaviest cloud of trouble and sorrow. O help us to

believe this *now* that thou hast brought pain and distress upon this dear child, and deep anxiety and trouble upon us all. May we trust in thy mercy, and flee to the covert of thy wings till this calamity be overpast.

Lord, we beseech thee that this trial may be for the good of the sufferer and of all connected with [him], leading to more concern for the welfare of the soul, and a stronger purpose to seek its salvation. Then will our mourning be ended, and we shall joy and rejoice together.

O God, we are short-sighted creatures, and see not the end from the beginning. Thy purposes are often hidden from us. If this sickness should be unto death, prepare us all to bow to thy sovereign will. Especially do thou fit the dear invalid for what may be before [him]. Grant [him] a calm trust in Jesus, a clear understanding of the work of redemption he has wrought out for [him], a humble, penitent heart, a cheerful hope of life eternal. We desire to resign all into thine hands. Ever hast thou been a God of mercy and love, and thou art so still. We believe that thou carest for us in all our sorrows and anxieties, and wilt bring us forth out of this and every affliction, as gold seven times purified. O that our prayer now may reach thine ear, and draw down upon our afflicted one, and all of us, thy blessing and divine support. Accept us, we beseech thee, through our sympathizing High Priest, Christ Jesus, for whom we bless thee, and unto whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, be everlasting praises. AMEN.

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## THE SAME.

O thou great and gracious God, our heavenly Father, thou dost condescend to listen to our cry, and bend thine ear to the voice of our petition. How great is thy mercy

in permitting us to pour out before thee all our sorrows and complaints. We flee, at this time of trouble and anxiety, to thy throne of grace, and trust to find there all the consolation and support we need.

Lord, we know that afflictions spring not out of the dust. Nothing happens to us by chance. It is thou who hast struck down our dear child with this severe illness. It is thy wisdom that has seen the need of this time of trouble for [him] and for us all.

How cheerfully would we remove all [his] pains, if it lay in our power, but thou in permitting them hast mercy and blessing in store for [him]. We trust in thee to bring good out of seeming evil; and if it please thee to recover [him] from this sickness, may it be to learn the value of health and life, and of [his] never-dying soul.

"No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby." It is for this blessed result of suffering we earnestly pray, and seek unto thee now.

O our God, do thou instruct the heart of this dear child while [he] is on [his] bed of sickness, and sanctify to [him] this affliction. Make [him] patient and peaceful, and resigned to all thy will concerning [him].

It is our support in trouble to know that thou hast a Father's loving, pitying compassion for thy children in distress, and dost sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, watching both the furnace and the precious metal. We would comfort ourselves and our dear sufferer with these considerations,—would lift up the hands that hang down and confirm the feeble knees. Never hast thou sent more trial upon us than thou hast enabled us to bear. Oh! lay underneath this dear child now, thine everlasting arms of power, and strengthen [him] upon [his] bed of languishing and weakness.

*Blessed* Jesus, reveal thyself to [him] as [his] all in all.

Look upon [his] affliction and [his] pain, and forgive all [his] sins. May [he] have thy loving presence with [him] day and night, to lighten [his] burden and cheer [his] heart. Give [him] to know what thou hast done and suffered for [him], and help [him] to commit [himself] both body and soul to thy safe keeping for time and eternity.

We beseech thee, teach us all as a family, how dependent we are upon thee, our God, for health and happiness,—how soon thou canst take away, as well as give. Let us learn lessons of heavenly wisdom from this visitation of thine hand, and not lose, by indifference or hardness of heart, the benefit thou hast designed for us in it. Hear, O gracious Father, these our petitions. Accept our humble thanksgiving for all thy mercy and goodness, and far exceed our desires, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

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## PRAYER FOR A TIME OF BEREAVEMENT.

How shall we come before thee, O our God, and what shall we say unto thee, now that thou hast brought over us the heavy shadow of death and distress? We are overwhelmed with trouble and sorrow. Our hearts are smitten and withered like grass. How deep is the wound thou hast inflicted upon us! How sharp the arrow that has pierced our spirit! We have clung fast to our treasures; have made idols of thy gifts; and now art thou come to assert thy right to our whole heart, and our entire devotion. Thou art, O Most High, a jealous God, and wilt suffer no rivalry in our affections. We acknowledge how much we deserve thy chastening strokes. It becomes us to lay our hand upon our mouth, and our mouth in the dust before thee. We would bow to thine infinite wisdom, and kiss the rod that smites us.

O Lord our God, it is hard to our poor nature, to yield up what we have most highly prized. It is as though our very soul were rent asunder. Thou art now probing our hearts to their innermost recesses—art pruning the branches, that they may bring forth more fruit. The anguish of thy dealings with us is indeed great; but we will trust thee. However dark thy dispensations, however obscure thy designs, however severe thy discipline, we will trust thee still, for thou art Love, and canst not have any but purposes of love towards us.

We beseech thee, let thy mercy and grace incline thee to pity us in this time of our sorrow and sadness.

Oh! come and cast a cheerful ray of heavenly light across this gloomy storm-cloud. May we see the silver lining behind the darkness, and be able to praise and bless thee while we weep.

Thou art not angry with us for our tears, for "Jesus wept!" His tender heart melted at sorrow, and his human soul experienced grief. O most gracious Saviour, reveal to us thy loving pity. May we feel that thou art our fellow-sufferer, and dost still retain a brother's compassion for us, though thou art exalted to thy throne in the heavens. In all our afflictions thou art afflicted; and may the angel of thy presence save us.

Lord, we pray that we may not be consumed by overmuch sorrow. Help us to say with true resignation, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Thou hast a divine right over all the works of thine hand. None should say unto thee, with a doubt of thine infinite wisdom, 'What doest thou?' And we would strive under this severe distress to quiet the rebellion of our spirit, by the consideration of thine eternal justice, love, and mercy.

We are all hastening to return to the dust out of which we were taken, and the place that now knows us, will *know us no* more for ever. O God, mercifully help us to

prepare for that solemn change. May we not be overtaken by it before we have made our peace with God, and accepted his terms of salvation. Blessed be thy name for the hopes brought to light by the gospel of thy grace, the glorious hopes, which are full of life and immortality. We would look through our tears to this cheerful beam—this unfading prospect. All our earthly joys must depart, and one by one we may be stripped of all our most precious treasures, but the "hope that's built upon thy word can ne'er be overthrown." Its foundation is eternally secure amidst the storms and vicissitudes of time. We may therefore have a strong consolation while we flee for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope is the anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and entereth into that within the veil.

Great God, our heavenly Father, deign to hear these our feeble petitions. Quell the risings of rebellion in all our hearts, and give us to feel entire acquiescence in thy will and pleasure concerning us and ours.

Now the God that comforteth them that are cast down, himself give us peace and consolation, and enable us to give up all cheerfully that he would take away from us, knowing that he is too good to be unkind, too wise to err.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, rest upon and abide with us all for ever. AMEN.

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## FOR AN OCCASION OF SEPARATION.

Lord, our times are in thine hand. Thou appointest all the events of our life, and it becomes us under all circumstances to draw near to thee, and commit ourselves and our ways to thine infinite wisdom and thy merciful disposal.

We would ask thy blessing on what we purpose and what we do. The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord, and he delighteth in his way. We desire, gracious God, that thou shouldst ever direct our goings, and may our ways please the Lord. At this time especially we ask thy favour to attend us in our temporary separation from one another. It is our comfort to know that we cannot go where thou art not, for thy presence is everywhere, and thine eyes pierce through all space. Never are we beyond the reach of thy power to help us, nor out of the range of thy providence to care and provide for us.

We entreat thee, that, during this interval in our companionship, thine almighty arm may be outstretched for our protection, and thy mercy and love may abound for our comfort and consolation. May we experience each day more of the graciousness of thy dealings with us, and be led to exercise a more implicit trust in thee.

O Lord our God, look, we entreat thee, on the dear one who is leaving us. Be thou about [his] path and keep [him] in all [his] ways. May [he] be upheld and sustained, refreshed and cheered by thee every day. Be with us who remain at home. Mercifully guard us from all evil. By day and by night be our Protector. Thou art the God of all the families of the earth, and we may look up to thee as our God and Father, for the supply of all our necessities, and for support under our trials. Every day will we seek thee, and we will bless thy name for ever and ever. Enable us to value a throne of grace, where, though absent from one another, we may meet and blend in sweet communion, drawing down upon each other thy richest, choicest blessings. Thou hast promised that if two shall agree on earth touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done for them, and we agree to ask for grace to keep us stedfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. We *ask thy* loving care to be over us while separated, and thy

blessing wherever we go. Do unto us according to thy word, and far exceed our utmost desires, for the sake of our divine Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all glory and honour, and praise for ever. AMEN.

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## FOR A MEETING-TIME AFTER SEPARATION.

Blessed God! it is a good thing to give thanks unto thee, and to sing praises unto thy name, O thou Most High. We have found a fresh occasion to bless thee, fresh cause for love and gratitude. How hast thou graciously heard and answered our prayers, and restored to us our dear absent one, in health and strength and happiness. Thou hast not forgotten us amid the thousands of thy dependent creatures, but hast shown mercy in watching over us and ours, while separated from one another.

Continually have we all been surrounded by dangers, temporal and spiritual.

Apart from the accustomed habits of home piety, and the influence of good example, how likely is it that the soul would forget thee, and overlook thy claims upon its love. We thank thee, O our God, if this has not been the case, but that we have all been enabled to set the Lord before us, and not to follow any evil way. By thy kind interposition we meet together again in health and comfort, and can sing again of the goodness of the Lord. Oh! that thy praise could continually be in our mouth. Thou art always doing us good; art daily filling up the measure of our earthly bliss, giving us constant reason to rejoice in thee, and in all thy graciousness to us.

We pray that thy goodness may lead us to repentance. May we consider how unworthy we are of thy many

favours, and how infinitely beyond our deserts thy benefits extend.

O God, seal upon our hearts this added proof of thy love. May the happy return of our beloved one lead us to think how welcome to thy Fatherly heart is the return of thy wandering children, when they err and stray from thy ways. May we avail ourselves of every opportunity to bring an offering, and come into thy presence with loving grateful hearts. Bless with us all our dear absent relatives. Under the many changes and trials of this changeful world, may they find comfort in the God who is eternally the same—the Rock of ages. Speak peace to their spirits, and send strength into their soul, and may none of the troubles of life move them from their confidence and trust in thee.

It is in the name of our adorable Intercessor, that we ask all blessings of thee, and expect the bestowals of thy grace and favour, and to him, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, we render ceaseless praise. AMEN.

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## PRAYER FOR A WAYWARD CHILD.

O thou great God, the Searcher of hearts, I bring before thee now this dear child, and entreat thee to show [him] the evil that is in [his] heart. Convince [him] that [he] has sinned against thee. O Lord, make [him] conscious that thy frown and displeasure are resting upon [him]. It is not in the power of any but thyself to touch the hidden springs of conscience, and melt the soul, even of a child, into true penitence.

We can point out the fault, and explain the nature of the evil, and its guiltiness in thy sight, but thy Spirit alone can convince of sin, and produce repentance unto life, that *needeth* not to be repented of.

O may this dear child be humbled now before thee. May [he] feel grief of heart, that [he] has offended, by [his] selfwill and waywardness, the kind and gracious God, who is daily loading [him] with benefits.

Give [him] grace, Lord, to overcome the sins that so easily beset [him], and so often draw [him] into trouble and guilt, both before God and man. Aid [him] to resolve, by thy grace, to be more watchful, more self-denying, more prayerful, more humble-minded in the future. No efforts of [his] own are sufficient. [He] must have divine strength and wisdom every day and hour.

If [he] would be more than a conqueror it must be through him that has loved [him]. O thou gentle, loving Jesus, be [his] Friend, [his] Elder Brother, [his] mighty God, [his] gracious Saviour. Thou hast thyself endured temptation, and knowest how to succour them that are tempted. Come to the help of this dear child, and make [him] equal to all the difficulties [he] has to contend with, to all the inbred corruptions of [his] own evil heart. Let this occasion of stumbling prove a means of lasting good to [him], and in coming days may it be seen that from this hour new life has been imparted, and holy resolves, in thy strength, have been made. Hear and answer us in these things, O our God, and forgive all our sins, blot out all our transgressions, for Jesus' sake alone. AMEN.

THE END.

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